PARKS & RECREATION
VILLAGE of MONEE

MONEE PARKS AND RECREATION

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

03.10.2021

Farnsworth
GROUP

PARKS &
RECREATION
VILLAGE of MONEE

Acknowledgments

The Village of Monee would like to thank our staff, Farnsworth Group, and the community members who provided their time and input necessary to make this comprehensive plan a success.

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01

Introduction & Overview

01 Introduction & Overview

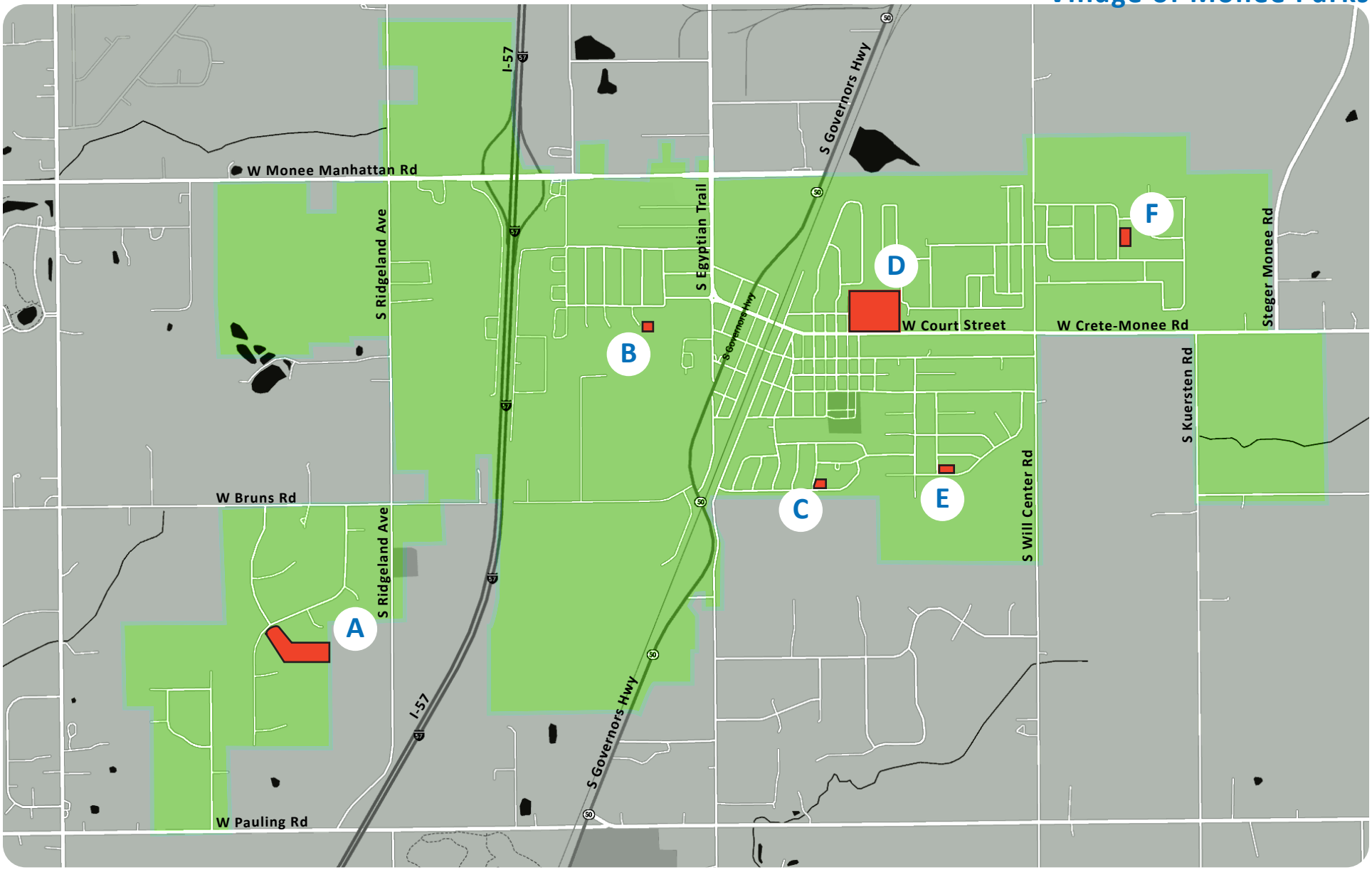
In recent years the Village of Monee has moved with the ebb and flow of growth in the south suburbs of the Chicagoland area. With the last housing boom, the community saw the introduction of new parks and open spaces as part of new home developments and a 75% growth in population since the year 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A recreation facility was built, full-time parks & recreation leadership hired, and youth sports programming along with some other general recreation program have become a central focus for the Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department. **The time is right for a Village of Monee Parks & Recreation to have a Comprehensive Plan.**

As Monee moves through its process of creating a Comprehensive Plan for the Village overall, it is essential that this Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan become an integral component. Resources, such as grants, donations and sponsorships to support Parks and Recreation depend highly upon the availability of clear plans for the Parks & Recreation Department, and a long-term commitment from Village Trustees. This Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan will develop guidelines for parks and recreation decision-making, and provide direction for short-term and long-term goals. This plan is meant to be progressive and adaptable, and able to accommodate the changing recreational needs of the residents of Monee. The Parks and Recreation Department, along with Village Administration, has the opportunity to make changes if needed.

KEY

A. Gorman Farm Open Space
B. Potawatomi Park
C. Sunrise Park
D. Firemen's Park
E. Eagle Fair Open Space
F. Friendship Park

Village of Monee Parks



If plans for the Parks and Recreation Department are not a part of the overall Village plan, then it will ignore the necessity to identify and integrate those with all the other essential services in Monee:

- The resources necessary for Public Works to provide for ongoing maintenance of existing parks (Firemen's, Friendship, Potawatomi, and Sunrise).

- The resources necessary to take care of the current facilities (Recreation Center, Shelters/Pavilions, Concession, Baseball Diamonds, Football/Soccer fields, etc.).

The American Planning Association says this about the role of parks and recreation in the management and growth of our communities:

"Parks are commonly thought of as the venue for "fun and games," but that is only one role they play in a metropolitan environment. Public understanding of the pivotal role that parks play in enhancing the quality of life in our cities is growing, along with an understanding of the links between the quality of parks and sprawling growth on the fringe of cities. City parks are an important element of smart growth that addresses both the public's need for greenspace and the role of greenspace in mitigating higher development density."

While Monee Parks and Recreation certainly provides opportunities for community "fun and games", some stakeholders feel they are not here to entertain the residents of Monee. It is essential to also recognize the economic, social, and planning benefits that a successful Parks and Recreation department brings to Monee. Businesses, and individuals looking to locate/re-locate in a community base their decisions on a short list of key factors:

1. Good Schools
2. Safe Neighborhoods
3. Infrastructure
4. Taxes and Related Development Costs
5. **Recreation and Parks**
6. Access to Transportation and Shopping

"76% OF CORPORATE EXECUTIVES SAY QUALITY-OF-LIFE FACTORS ARE "VERY IMPORTANT" OR "IMPORTANT" IN THEIR SITE-LOCATION DECISIONS"

Research has shown that property values increase by 8% when a community has quality parks and recreation services, and according to real estate professionals, while the quality of roads, policing, sewer and water are important, the quality of schools and parks and recreation are what make the difference in selecting where to live. Other statistics from *The 2018 Americans' Engagement with Parks Report* done by the National Recreation and Park Association that are important for the future of a vibrant Monee include:

- 85% of Americans consider high quality park and recreation amenities important factors when choosing a new place to live.
- More than 9 in 10 Americans agree that parks and recreation is an important local government service.
- 76% percent of Americans are more likely to vote for local politicians who make park and recreation funding a priority.
- 78% of survey respondents indicate they want their local governments to increase park and recreation spending, especially if it helps ensure all Americans are within a 10-minute walk to a great park.

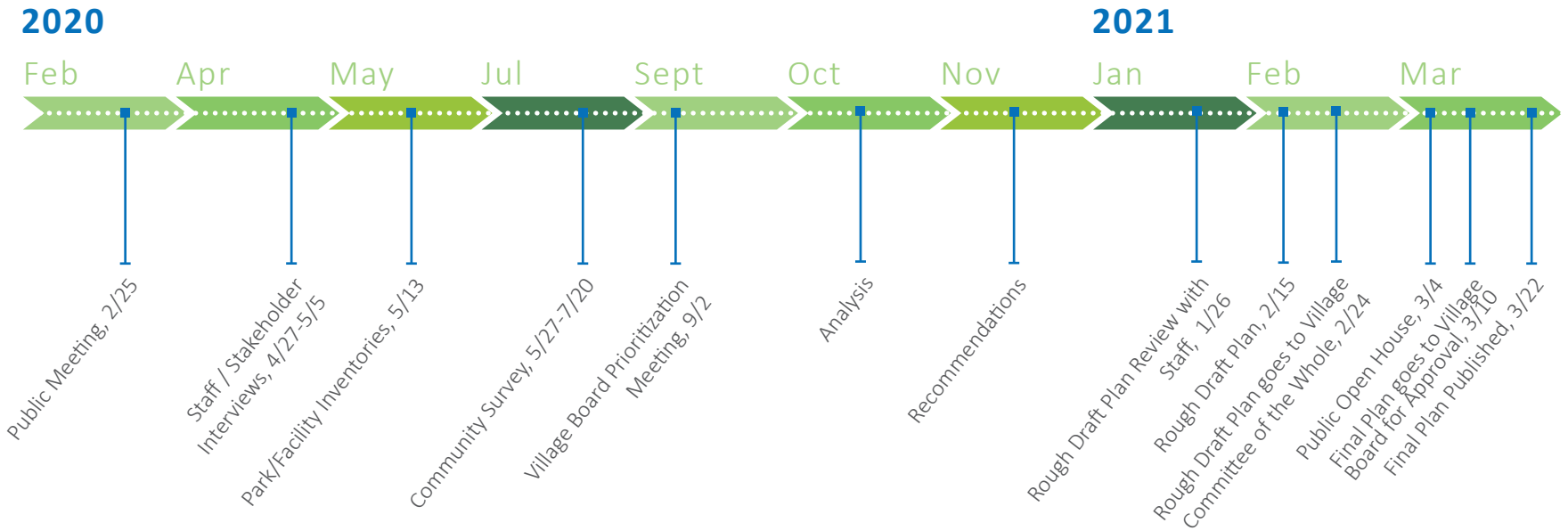
The Village of Monee will see great value by planning for, and insuring, quality parks and recreation as it plans for the future.

PLAN GOALS

- **Analyze existing parks and recreation resources**
- **Assess the needs of the residents of Monee**
- **Provide for formal input from:**
  - Citizens of Monee
  - Staff
  - Trustees
  - Community and Business Leaders
- **Create a 5 year comprehensive plan document that outlines:**
  - Current demands on parks and recreation
  - Future demands on parks and recreation
  - Park and Recreation projects for grant opportunities
  - Program need/demand
  - Open Space Opportunities
- **Sets Key Goals and Objectives for the 5 year planning horizon**
- **Identify priority of various components of the plan**

Project Timeline

The team began the Comprehensive Plan process in February of 2020. Existing documents and maps related to Parks and Recreation were gathered from the Village, and additional research was done to gather information on community demographics, community history, parks and recreation offerings, and Monee's Parks and Recreation operations and budget. The team recognizes the importance of community input and involvement in the development of the Comprehensive Plan so interviews were conducted of staff members and key community leaders. Community members were able to provide input through an online parks and recreation survey and in-person at a public meeting held at Village Hall.



02

Existing Conditions & Analysis

Overview

The Master Plan team compiled and reviewed plans and documents pertaining to parks, recreation, open space, and other cultural and recreational programs offered in Monee. The team analyzed existing sources of data, including community demographics, quality and convenience of park and facility locations, existing natural resources, and Monee Parks and Recreation Department operations and budget. Evaluation also included comparing Monee's park and recreational offerings to those of other similarly sized nearby municipalities.

Community Profile

Founded in 1874 by a vote of the population in the area, the First Village Board was voted into Office with President Edward Wernigh, and Trustees Henry Hoffman, Charles Plagge, Phillip Vollmar, Christopher Schoenstedt, and August Schiffer. The Clerk was William T. Hutchinson, the Treasurer, Baio Hayen, and the Police Magistrate was Laban Easterbrooks.

Picnic in Freese's Woods

Five years later, in 1879, the Monee Court Hall was built, but not until 1884 was a Fire Department created, when the population was just less than 500.

It wasn't until 1908 when the first organized Parks & Recreation Department made history as the Monee Amusement Co. leased Ziemer's Grove section of Raccoon Grove and laid out a picnic grounds and baseball diamond. Also constructed was a large pavilion for dancing. It was named Oakdell Park. Furthermore, on July 4th the first picnic was held at Oakdell Park. Unfortunately, later that same year the Oakdell Park pavilion was destroyed by fire, but joyously rebuilt in August. This park was used until about 1918.

In 1909, the Monee Driving Park Association purchased a 26-acre tract of land east of town. There was a grandstand built with a seating capacity of 800. It became the Monee Fair Grounds, and the first fair was held in September.

While, park lands were being established, so were recreation organizations. In fact, the men's basketball team of the Monee Athletic Club were area champions in 1913.

In 1920, the population of Monee was 395—lower than in 1895! This same year, a new Auditorium at the Monee Fairgrounds was opened.

Monee Basketball Champions, 1913

Unfortunately, this auditorium then burned down in 1934.

Just two years later, in 1922, work began on a new railroad line running north-south through Monee that became known as "the cut." It bisects the Village and still exists today.

In 1937, land was bought by the Forest Preserve District of Will County to form a public park, which is still in use today.

The Fire Department purchased 5-acres of land and three lots for $6,000 along Court Street in 1950. On this land stood a 5-room stone building, "The Creamery", which in the late 1800's had been a cheese factory. This area was already widely known as Lankenau's Park since the family owning the property leased it as picnic grounds. The Fire Department developed the acreage into a community park with baseball diamond and tennis court now known as Firemen's Park and began recreational programming. Annually, for almost 20 years, a large festival was held at the park and the entire town came together for this 3-day event.

In 1959, the Illinois Division of Highways announced the building of Interstate 57, which would cross north-south through Monee Village limits west of "the cut." I-57 from Kankakee to I-80 won't open still until 1968.

With the introduction of modern utilites, post office, businesses. schools, the railroad line, and Interstate 57, the population of Monee grows steadily from 1960-1990 from 647 residents to 1,044 residents.

It is estimated that in the late 90s, both Potawatomi Park and Sunrise Park were established when the land surrounding them was subdivided and homes built. Friendship Park was likely established in the early 2000s.

By the year 2000, the population of Monee reached almost 3,000 people and steady growth in housing developments for the community continued until the 2008 recession and housing market crash. In 2010, the population of Monee peaked at 5,148 residents.

The following year. the "Save the Creamery Foundation" established to save the Monee Creamery building in Firemen's Park from demolition. The Monee Creamery Building was finally granted landmark status by Will County in 2016 and plans began for renovation. In 2017, the "Save the Creamery Foundation" organization morphed into the Monee Historical Society.

The following is a summary of demographic characteristics of Monee which may help provide insight as to how parks and recreation might be impacted:

Population by Race/Ethnicity:

White 72.6%
Black 14.4%
Hispanic 9%
Asian alone 2.3%
Two or more races 1.6%
American Indian .04%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander .02%
Other race .02%

2.1% of Monee residents were living in poverty in 2017

Monee Cost of Living Index, March 2019: 99.6 (U.S. average is 100)

Colleges/universities with over 2000 students nearest to Monee:

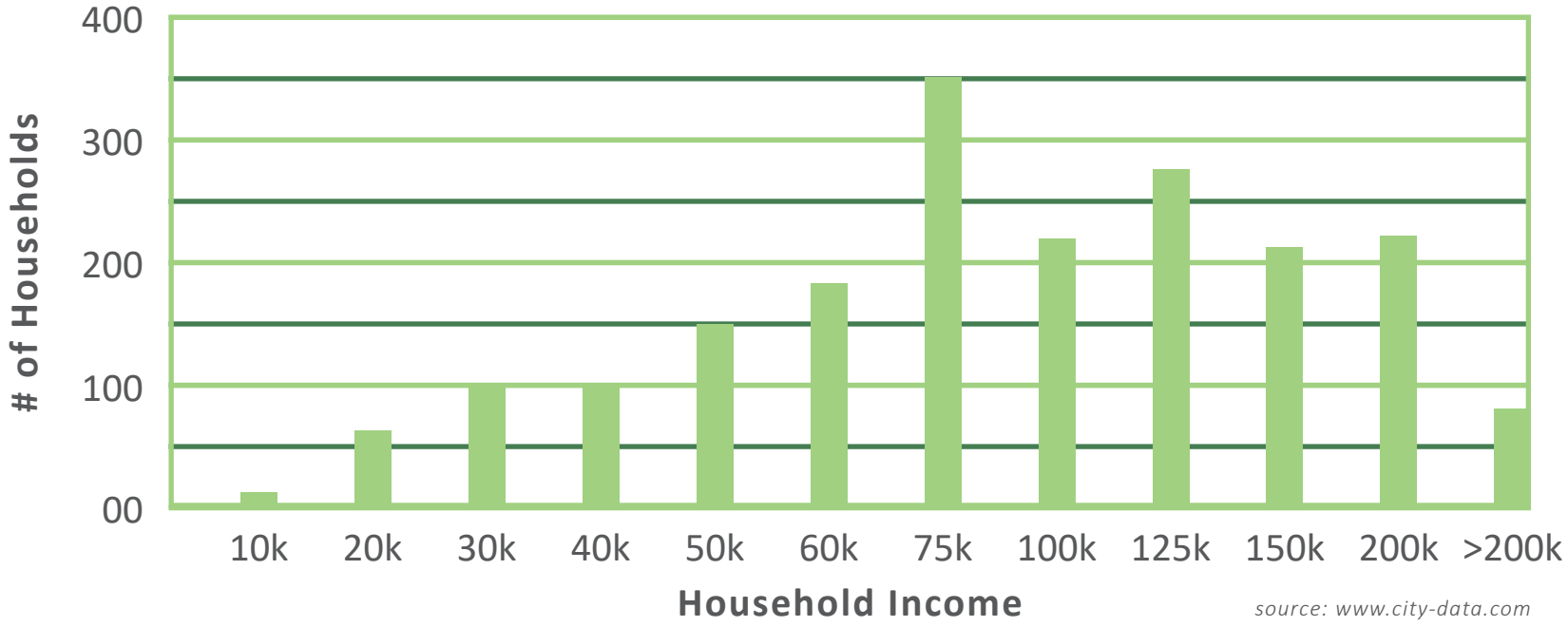
Governors State University- about 3 miles; University Park, IL; Full-time enrollment: 4,043
Prairie State College- about 10 miles; Chicago Heights, IL; FT enrollment: 4,050
South Suburban College- about 15 miles; South Holland, IL; FT enrollment: 3,972
Purdue University-Calumet Campus- about 19 miles; Hammond, IN; FT enrollment: 7,343
Olivet Nazarene University- about 20 miles; Bourbonnais, IL; FT enrollment: 4,731
Moraine Valley Community College- about 20 miles; Palos Hills, IL; FT enrollment: 12,008
University of St Francis- about 20 miles; Joliet, IL; FT enrollment: 2,454

Read more about these demographics at: https://www.city-data.com/city/Monee-Illinois.html

Resident Age Distribution	
Under 5 years:	419
5 to 9 years:	406
10 to 14 years:	341
15 to 17 years:	180
18 and 19 years:	78
20 years:	28
21 years:	26
22 to 24 years:	126
25 to 29 years:	344
30 to 34 years:	447
35 to 39 years:	393
40 to 44 years:	383
45 to 49 years:	358
50 to 54 years:	348
55 to 59 years:	261
60 and 61 years:	97
62 to 64 years:	160
65 and 66 years:	84
67 to 69 years:	120
70 to 74 years:	204
75 to 79 years:	163
80 to 84 years:	109
85 years and over:	93

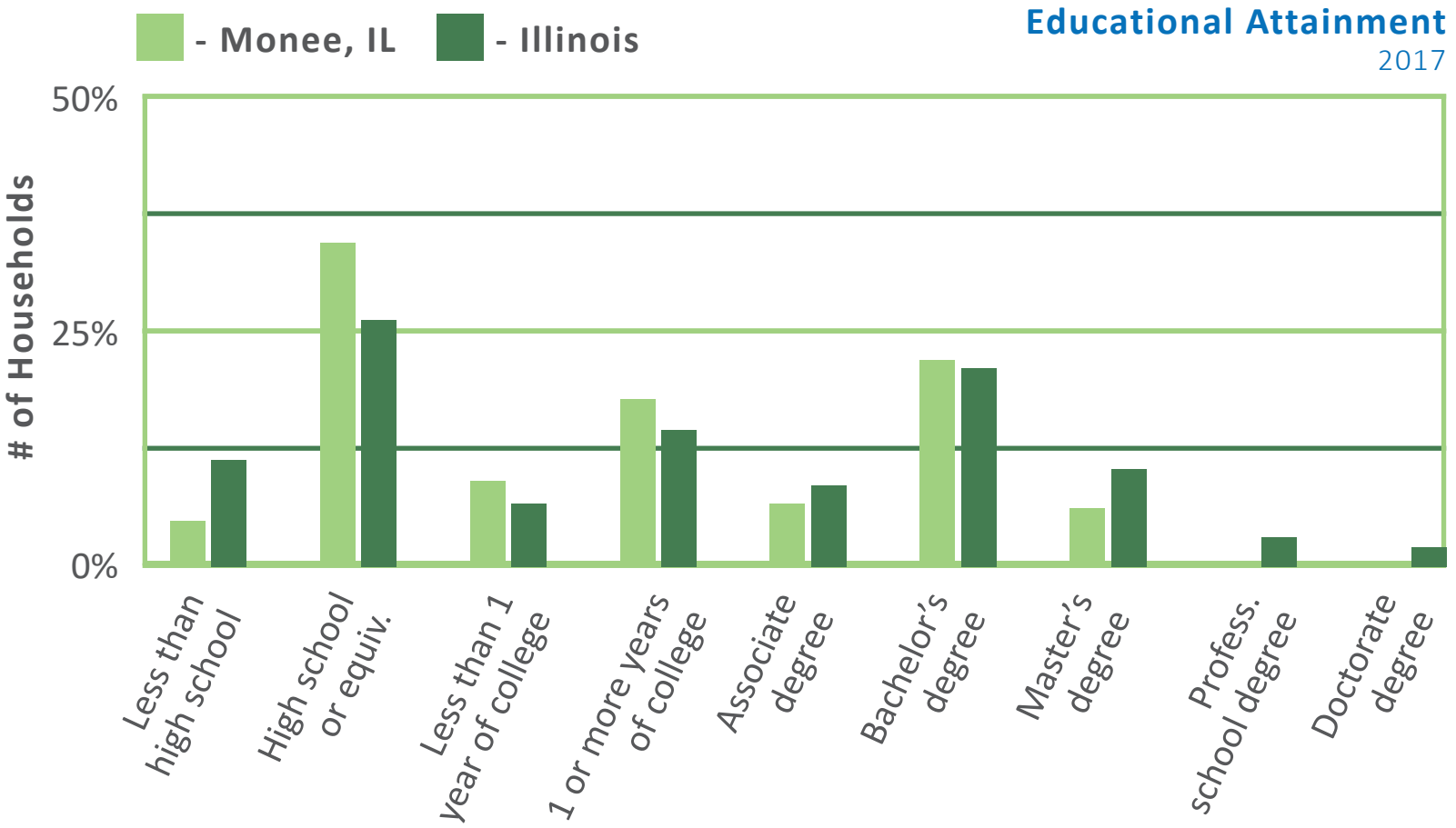
Distribution of Median Household Income

Monee, IL 2017



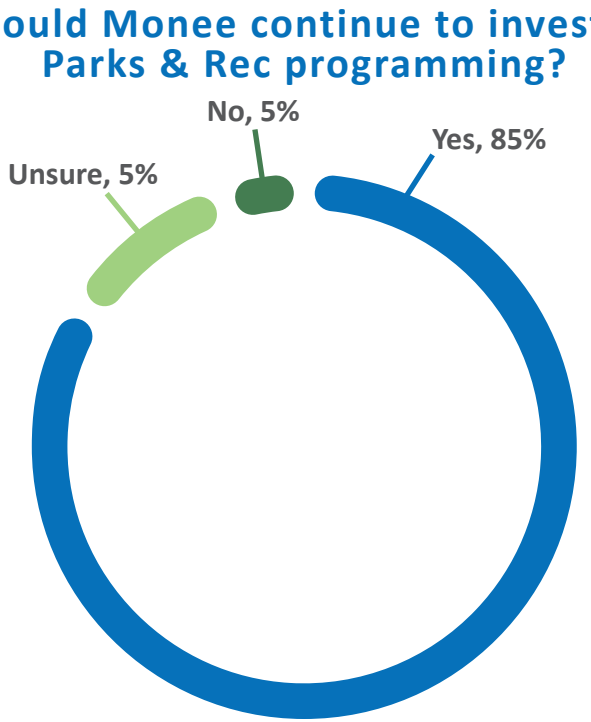
source: www.city-data.com

Educational Attainment
2017



Parks and Recreation in Monee is on the cusp of moving to the next phase of growth in meeting the needs of its residents. Several key indicators from the Village Community-wide Resident Survey contribute to this generalization, including:

- 56% of survey respondents have participated in at least one Village of Monee Parks and Recreation program in the last year.
- 85% of survey respondents feel that the Village of Monee should continue to invest in the parks and recreational programming.
- 89% of survey respondents indicate they are willing to pay for recreation programming.



Additionally, across the interview spectrum with Trustees and Staff of the Village of Monee there was consistent support for, and strong positive sentiment towards the progress that parks and recreation has made in Monee in recent years. Staff attributes this to the support of the Trustees and the Trustees attribute this to the Village's investment and commitment to staffing and growing the Parks and Recreation Department for success.

Charged with giving the Village some perspective on how it is doing in terms of Parks & Recreation Services, we sought to research a variety of factors. Benchmarking—the concept of seeing how one entity is doing in relationship to others of similar form and function (EAV, Population, etc.)—allows us to see if there are stark departures from what others are doing that might demonstrate a need for improvement. A great way to assess oneself is to see how others are doing to give perspective toward planning and improvement over time.

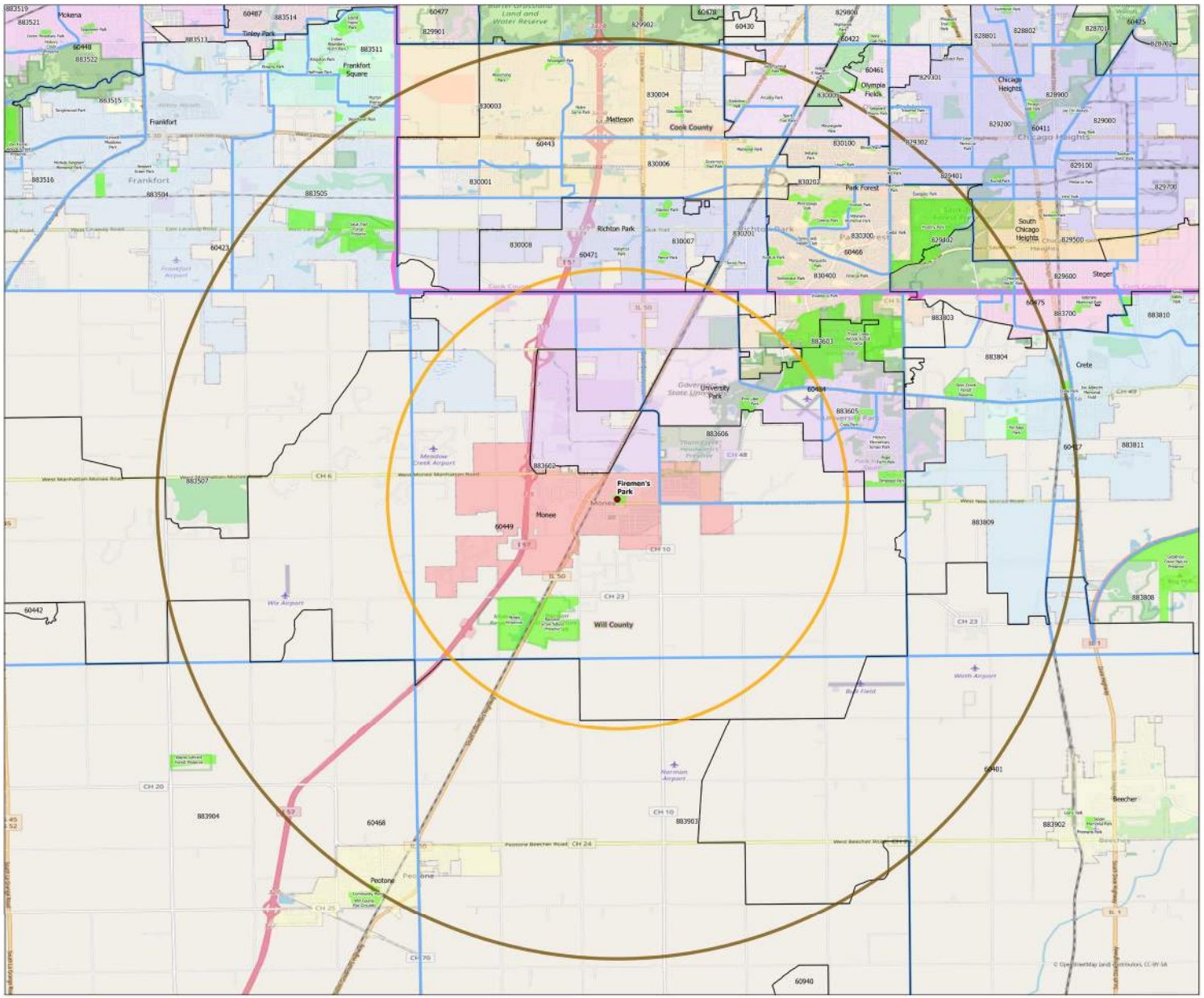
Toward this end, it might help for the Village of Monee to see how they compare:

Agency Name	Population	EAV	Organization Age	Total Park Acres	Total Indoor Square Feet
Village of Monee Parks and Recreation	**5,082**	**$111,213,932**	**146**	**11**	**1,200**
Village of Beecher Parks (Public Works Department)	4,359	$97,352,000	150	34	0
Olympia Fields Park District	4,833	$138,442,353	64	143	19,918
Village of Coal City Parks (Public Works Department)	5,409	$123,312,000	140	38	0
Crete Park District	8,047	$146,071,047	63	132	1,200

All these factors are very interesting, and demonstrate that the Village is neither a trend setter, nor far behind "the curve" in the provision of parks and recreation. However, nothing should distract from the progress of the Village towards improving the quality of life of Monee residents through planning—long-term—for improved Parks and Recreation service.

Many stakeholders indicated they felt Monee residents were going to other communities to participate in recreation programming. Research has found, in fact, that most families will travel up to 10 miles to participate in a variety of recreational programs, so this is likely happening. Nonetheless, Monee Parks and Recreation must also realize that it can offer unique programs that will draw others from towns up to 10 miles away.

This 5 and 10 mile "Radius Map" (opposite page) shows the potential range from which Monee Parks and Recreation can draw future customers. Additionally, Monee should be heartened to learn that only 16% of its resident survey respondents indicated they were going to other communities for their recreation programming—not as significant as many had thought.



Monee IL
Radius Map
Five Miles and Ten Miles

Farnsworth GROUP

5/26/2020

There were several other key factors that stood out in the review of existing conditions, and the analysis of the operations which are crucial to the continued success of Parks and Recreation at the Village of Monee. The keys to future success in Monee will be tied to its ability to carefully bite off no more than it can chew when taking its next steps in provision of parks and recreations services:

- Carefully choosing which priorities will have the greatest impact for the investment of taxpayer dollars is crucial.
- Carefully balancing a financial commitment to assets and day-to-day operating issues is essential.
- Carefully taking the time to focus, first, on existing structure, management, assets and programming—bringing them into the 21st Century—before stepping out too far into "new" facilities and programs will assure that when future growth is sought, residents will be supportive and appreciative.

Based upon our assessment of existing conditions, the following factors stand out:

ADMINISTRATION

- **The Parks and Recreation Director mainly focuses their time on Recreation.**
- **The Public Works Director maintains the parks.**
- **Lack of a "Visibility" of the Department leads to numerous complications:**
  - **Independent Media to Promote Parks and Programs**
  - **A lack of "Brand" or "Motto" to help it stand out from all the other quality services provided by the Village causes challenges.**
  - **Online Registration**
- **Active Participation, by the Parks and Recreation Director, at the Village Board level is limited.**
- **Key Policy Matters at the Village Level related to Parks and Recreation need updating.**
- **Key legal documents, land records, and ordinance matters need attention.**
- **Trustees appear strongly supportive of Parks and Recreation progress and future planning.**
- **The current Director must move from her main role as a Program Leader to a Director who sets a long-range course and vision for both Parks and Recreation.**

RECREATION

- A significant number of individuals as reported in the survey fall into the category of "Detractors" in terms of the Parks and Recreation Department but not because of bad experiences, and rather due mainly to:
  - Lack of variety of programming
  - Not knowing what is available
  - Not having developed an opinion, as of yet, as to the department
- Programming is quite aggressive for the size of the community.
- Versatility of indoor space for programming is limited.
- No clear assessment of success/failure rates of programming, a fee policy, or costing methods exist.
- Defining "Core Services" is recommended:
  - Narrow and focus.
  - Set program and age group priorities.
- Affiliations and Partnerships could lead to additional/future indoor recreation program space.
- Fewer residents are going to other agencies (YMCA, other Villages or Park Districts, etc.) than Staff and Trustees seemed to think.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC

- **Having conducted a three-year assessment of recreation programs that were offered by the Village of Monee (see Appendix) which measured:**
  - **Programs Offered by Age Group**
  - **Number of Programs Offered**
  - **Program Enrollment**
  - **Success Rate of Programs Offered—Cancellations versus Successfully run programs**
  - **Type of Program Offered (i.e., Sport vs Arts, Social vs. Skill-Specific)**
- **There were 116 special events and programs offered.**

By Program Type:

37% of Programs Offered Were Visual or Performing Arts
31% of Programs Offered Were Sports Oriented
16% of Programs Were Special Events
6% of Programs Were Social Activities
5% of Programs Were Health/Fitness Related
5% Remainder Were Made Up Of Technical and Continuing Education Topics

By Age Group:

36% of Programming was for Ages 5 to 12
13% of Programming was for Middle School Ages
12% of Programming was for High School Ages
12% of Programming was for Under Age 5
9% of Programming was for Active Older Adults (Ages 55 to 72)
6% of Programming was for Older Adults (Over Age 72)
6% of Programming was for Adults Ages 25 to 55
6% of Programming was for Young Adults Age 18 to 25

PARKS

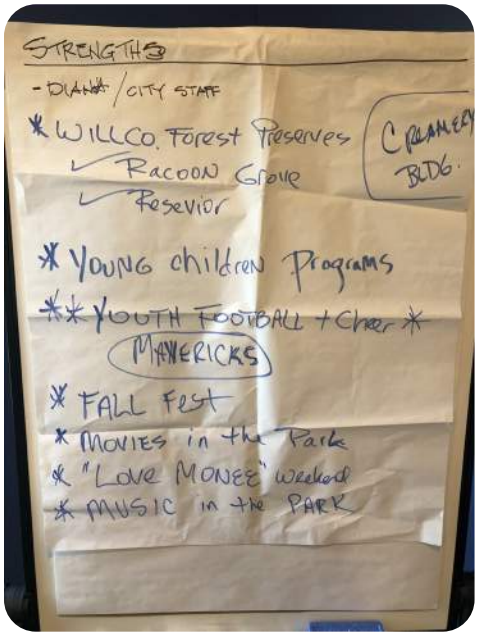
- **“Taking Care of What You Have”, first, is key.**
- **Firemen’s Park is a focal point for the community and needs the most extensive attention.**
- **Neighborhood parks are in good condition but are showing their age and have accessibility challenges.**
- **Several undeveloped and “unknown” open spaces exist in the Village, and hold great future potential.**
- **There are a lack of recreational spaces west of I-57 within Village limits.**
- **A small number of “new” parks facilities/amenities are a priority of the residents of the Village.**
- **Director of Parks and Recreation has the defined job of running Parks, but the Public Works Director has maintained the responsibility and authority to do so.**
- **Parks are one of numerous priorities of the Public Works Director, and can get lost in the shuffle.**

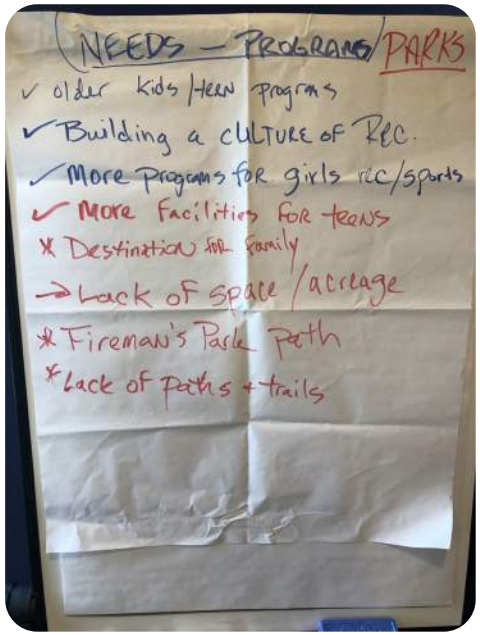
Community Input

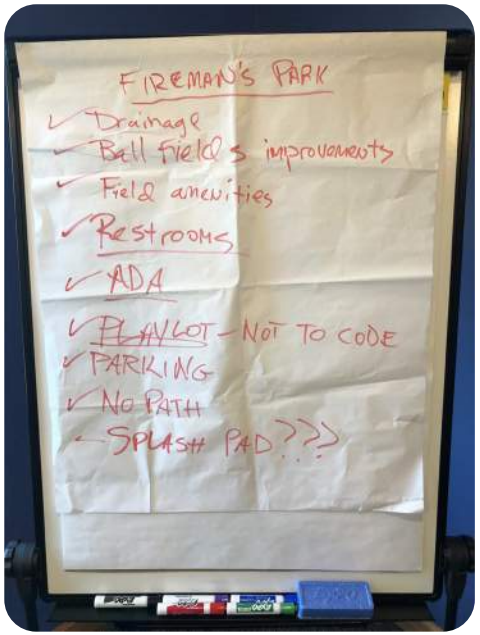
Community input is critical to creation of a successful Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. A public meeting was held, and staff and community leaders interviewed. These interviews provided insight as to recurring themes in parks and recreation in Monee and helped to guide the direction of the plan. Additionally, input was gathered from community members and facility users through an online survey.

Public Meeting

At the start of the Comprehensive Plan development process, a public meeting regarding Parks & Recreation was held to inform the public the nature and purpose of a Comprehensive Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. Approximately 20 residents attended the meeting on February 25th, 2020 at Village Hall including stakeholders of the Monee Mavericks Football Association, Golf Vista Senior Lifestyle Community, Crete-Monee School District 201-U and Monee Alliance of Churches. Three Village staff members and three Board Trustees were also in attendance.







The meeting opened with a brief introduction, an overview of the meeting objectives, and participants were encouraged to offer their ideas, concerns, and questions regarding Monee Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. The audience was informed that the Village Board and Administration are planning on applying for parks grants, such as the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD) through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), to help fund park improvements and that a comprehensive plan is an essential component and first step in that process to lay out a framework for the future of parks and recreation in Monee.

It was agreed by most of the participants that the Village does have considerable assets in programs and makes the most of its limited facilities and resources. "Strengths" and "Needs" were further discussed and identified for parks, facilities, and recreational programming followed by a lengthy discussion focusing specifically on Firemen's Park located directly adjacent to Village Hall. Lastly, discussion was held regarding the four neighborhood parks and Village-owned open space in Monee.

Strengths:

- Village staff; Parks & Recreation Director
- Nearby outdoor assets (Monee Reservoir; Raccoon Grove Forest Preserves)
- Strong young children's programs
- Popular youth football and cheer organization (Monee Mavericks)
- Fall Fest in September
- "Movies in the Park"
- "Love Monee" service weekend
- "Music in the Park"

Needs:

- Recreation programs for older youth and teens
- Additional park and open space acreage
- More programs for girls' sports
- Lack of multi-use paths and trails
- Leverage Village parks as "destination" for families – specifically to attract more demand to live in Monee
- Additional financial resources
- Historically a lack of vision about parks and rec in Monee – need to build a "culture of recreating"

Firemen's Park:

- Football and baseball field improvements
- Related field amenities (bleachers, dugouts)
- Modern, clean restroom facilities (there are none)
- Stormwater drainage improvements – especially to the football field
- Playground is past prime and not ADA code compliant
- Little security lighting now and need for lighting for night games and practices on baseball and football fields
- Need for indoor rec facility to offer programs, especially for teens
- ADA compliant walkways/access
- Improved parking lots (currently much is not paved)
- A walking path around the perimeter

> **"Firemen's Park is a place of "great potential" but in serious need of improvements and investments. Improving the existing facilities at Fireman's Park should take precedence in the next few years versus adding new park space."**

Additional parks and recreation desires:

- Plan for a bicycle route/path grid in Village that could connect with Forest Preserves
- Additional park acreage for playlots, fields for soccer, baseball, and softball.
- Improvement of current Village acreage designated for parks but undeveloped.

Finally, the participants were invited to prioritize overall their desired improvements and investments for the Monee Parks and Recreation Department. Many of these priorities were practical and measured, given the realistic resources available to the Village.

Overall Priorities:

1. Improve storm water drainage in Firemen's Park
2. Improve football and baseball fields at Firemen's Park
3. Build washrooms for men and women at Firemen's Park
4. Provide improved Firemen's Park lighting, especially adding field lights for baseball and football
5. Rebuild Firemen's Park Pavilion
6. Parking improvements at Firemen's Park
7. Convert Public Works building to indoor community Rec Center or build one elsewhere
8. Add additional parks (acreage) and open space in Village
9. ADA compliant walkways, playground and washrooms
10. Bicycle connectivity and paths

Staff and Stakeholder Interviews

Staff members, community leaders, and additional stakeholders were interviewed and asked 17 questions developed to help assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the Parks and Recreation department. Stakeholders were also asked to share their vision for the Parks and Recreation department regarding facilities and recreational programming, and specifically rank desired improvements to Firemen's Park. A summary of responses to the questions were compiled and recurring responses were tallied (see Appendix for full summary). There were some clear priorities and themes identified for Parks and Recreation in Monee based on the summary of responses.

Stakeholders

David Kruzel, Staff

David Wallace, Staff

Dianna Kroll, Staff

Doug Horne, Trustee

Heidi Gonzalez, Trustee

James Popp, Mayor

Janet Blue, Trustee

Michael Wilson, Trustee

Rico Guillermo, Mavericks Football President

Scott Youdris, Trustee

Priorities and themes:

- **Improve what we have**
  - **Firemen's Park**
  - **Neighborhood Parks**
- **Make the most of what we have to offer with current resources**
- **Plan ahead**
- **Expanded programming aligned with community needs**
- **Acquire open space with recreational potential**
- **Additional recreational facilities**
- **Secure funding for improvements**

Firemen's Park Top 5 Improvements Desired:

- **Football Fields**
- **Baseball Fields**
- **Concessions**
- **Walking Paths**
- **Playground**

Community Survey

In late May of 2020, Farnsworth Group and Public Research Group together mailed out a postcard to residents of the Village of Monee asking them to participate in an online survey. There were approximately 22 questions developed; most questions required selecting from pre-determined ranges and answers with some opportunities for open-ended comments. The survey questions were designed to measure behavior as well as perceptions by residents surrounding mostly parks & facilities, but also included recreation and administration. Public Research Group sampled and processed 179 total survey responses. The full survey questionnaire and responses can be found in the Appendix.

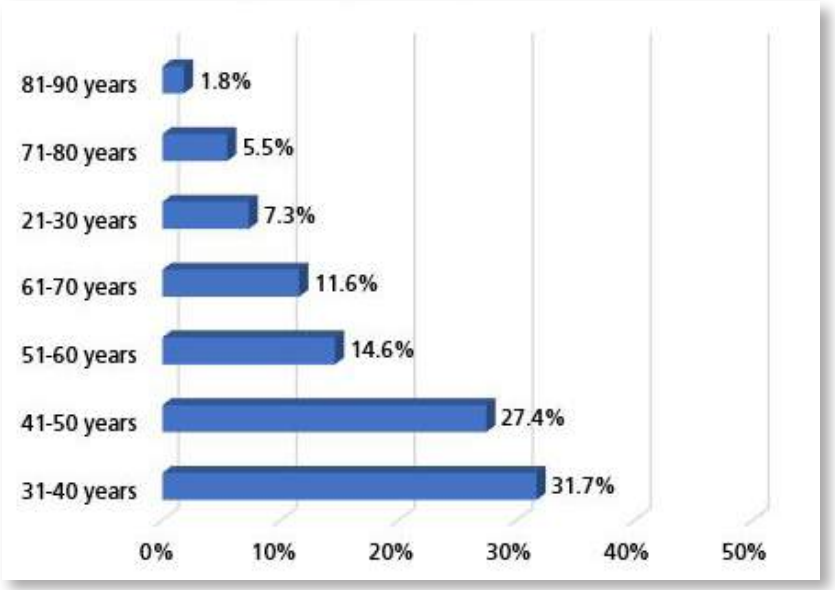
SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Parks & Recreation Department has not reached its full potential in meeting the expectations from the local community. Respondents' open-ended responses centered on not knowing what is available for parks & programming, a lack of variety in the programming specifically programs or activities for non-children households and a lack of special events.**
- **The parks are used frequently with Firemen's Park being the most visited.**
- **Park spaces seem very basic and do not generate much excitement for the average resident. The top three park features that are important to survey respondents to add or improve at Fireman's Park were a football field, playground equipment and a concession building.**
- **Residents would like to see an investment made into the parks with an expansion of recreation services offered.**

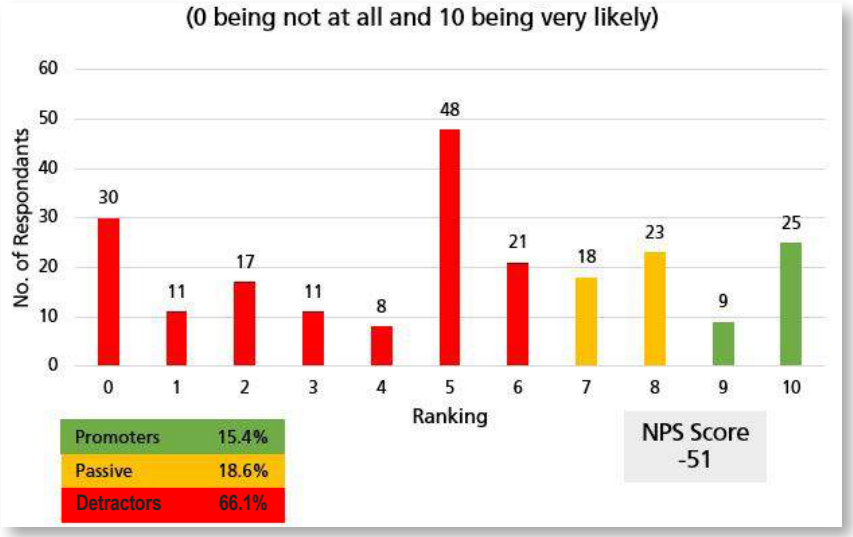
Demographics Overview for Respondents

- Average length of residency is 14 years
- Average age was 29 years old
- 52% had children 18 or younger and 24% of households had active adult/senior citizens
- 77% female & 17% male

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

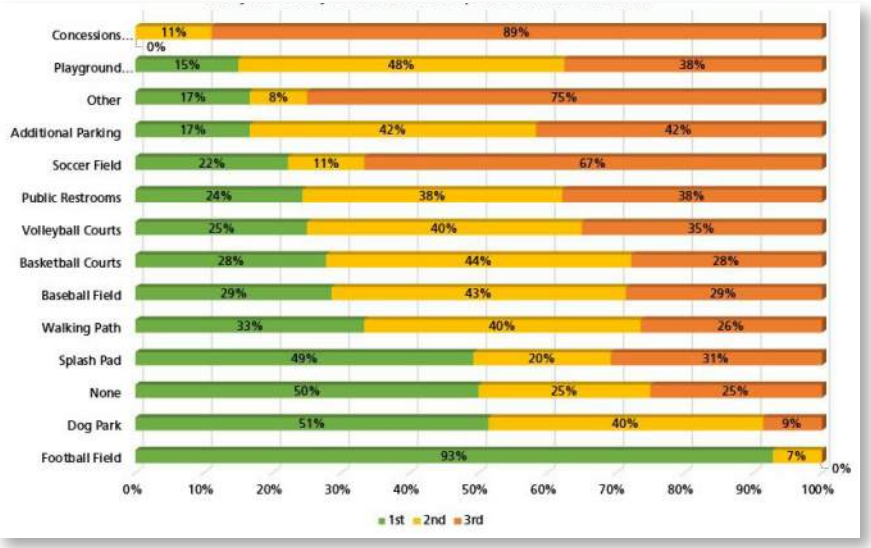


PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

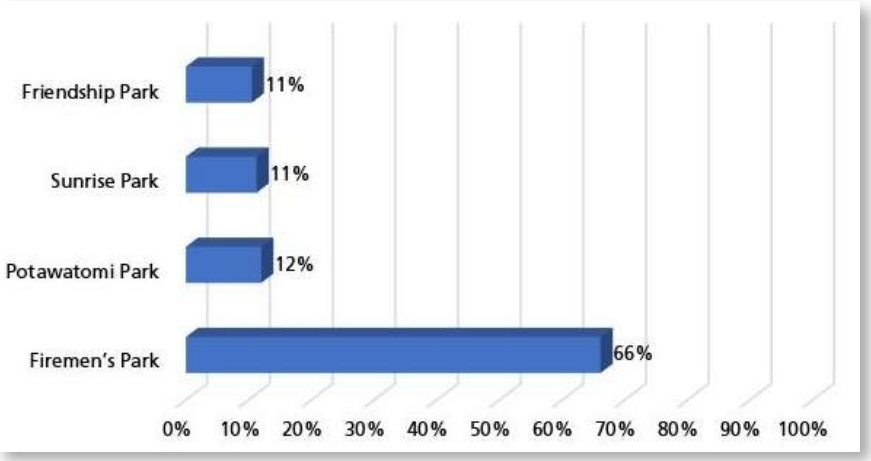


This survey question is a measure of customer satisfaction and loyalty to the Village Parks & Recreation Department. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) system was used. NPS scores are measured with a single question survey and reported with a number from -100 to +100, a higher score is desirable. Given the NPS range of -100 to +100, a "positive" score or NPS above 0 is considered "Good", +50 is "Excellent, and above 70 is considered "World Class." Based on global NPS standards, any score above 0 would be considered "good." The Parks & Recreation Department had a score of -51, which is considered a poor score with much work to be done in the future to raise this score.

FIREMEN'S PARK TOP THREE DESIRED FEATURES



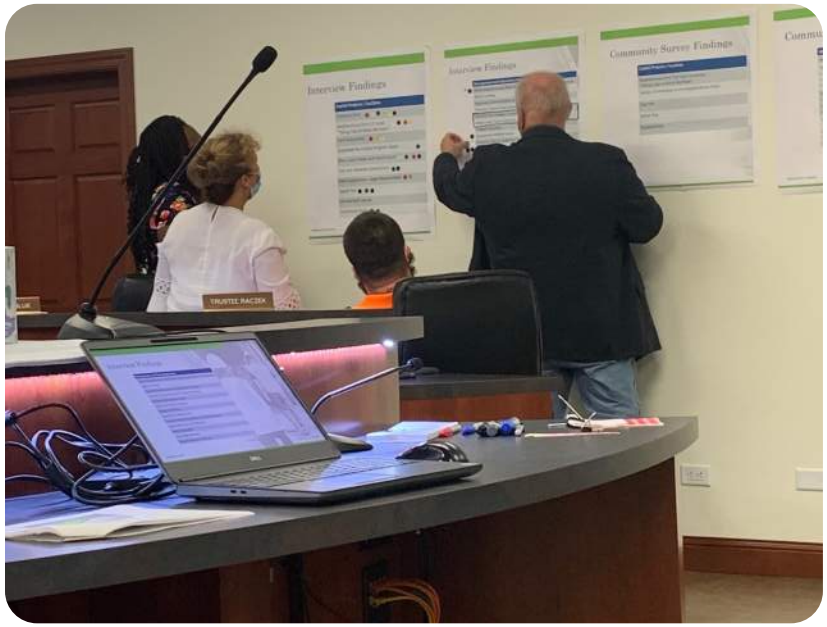
MOST OFTEN USED MONEE PARKS



Village Board Prioritization Meeting

Upon analysis of information from Public Meeting 1, responses from the stakeholder interviews, and results of the community survey our team determined an interactive session was needed with Village staff and Trustees to present our findings, prioritize the recurring responses from these processes, and narrow the “wish list” for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan into a realistic strategy that can be planned for and implemented in the next five to ten years.

The highest-ranking responses were presented in two defined categories, Interview Findings and Community Survey Findings, each with two sub-categories of Capital Projects/Facilities and Management and Operating Factors (shown opposite page). The team reviewed each of the items listed with the group to ensure their full understanding of the items prior to conducting the ranking activity for each list.



Interview Findings

Capital Projects / Facilities
Firemen's Park
Neighborhood Parks (3 total) "Taking Care of What We Have"
Land Acquisition
Expanded Recreation Program Space
More Sport Fields and Sport Courts
Trail and Sidewalk Connections
ADA Compliance – Legal Requirement
Splash Pad
18-hole Golf Course
Community Pool

Management and Operating Factors
More Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Department or Park District
Better Funding
Improved Communication & Marketing: Branding
Diversify / Expand Recreation Program Offerings
Develop Park Category System
Adopt Land / Cash Ordinance
Program Fee Policy
Appropriate Staffing Levels
Firemen's Park as Focal Point for Parks & Recreation
Build Partnerships and Affiliations
Online Registration
Long-Range Planning
Using the Resources We Have

Community Survey Findings

Capital Projects / Facilities
Neighborhood Park Turf and Landscape "Taking Care of What We Have"
Variety of Amenities in the Neighborhood Parks
Dog Park
Splash Pad
Football Field

Management Actions
Improved Communication and Marketing: Branding
Top Three Age Groups in Programming: • Ages 0 – 5 • Ages 6 – 11 • Ages 65+
Fee Support High: • Develop Fee Policy • Develop Cancellation Policy • Promotion of Programs
Top Three Village Parks and Recreation Priorities: • Expand Recreation Programs • Community Special Events • More Pathways • (Very close 4th place) Improving Existing Parks

The ranking activities allowed for each participant to move from their seats and place three stickers labeled with 1, 2, and 3 where 1 was "Most Important", 2 was "2nd Most Important," and 3 was "3rd Most Important." There were obviously not enough stickers for all of the items in each list ensuring a clear definition of top priorities among participants. Once the activity concluded for each, discussion was conducted to record initial observations and then compare and contrast the Interview Findings versus the Community Survey Findings.

Capital Projects/Assets - Stakeholders *		Capital Projects/Assets - Survey **
Project/Asset Focus	**Priority Rank**	**Project/Asset Focus**
Neighborhood Parks (3 total)	1	Football Field
Splashpad	2	Improve Existing Parks
Land Acquisition	3	Build More Pathways
More Sport Fields and Sport Courts	4	Variety of Elements within Parks
Trail and Sidewalk Connections	5	Dog Park
Community Pool	6	Splashpad
Expanded Program Space	7	Condition of Park Landscape

* Based upon Priority Ranking Process with Trustees

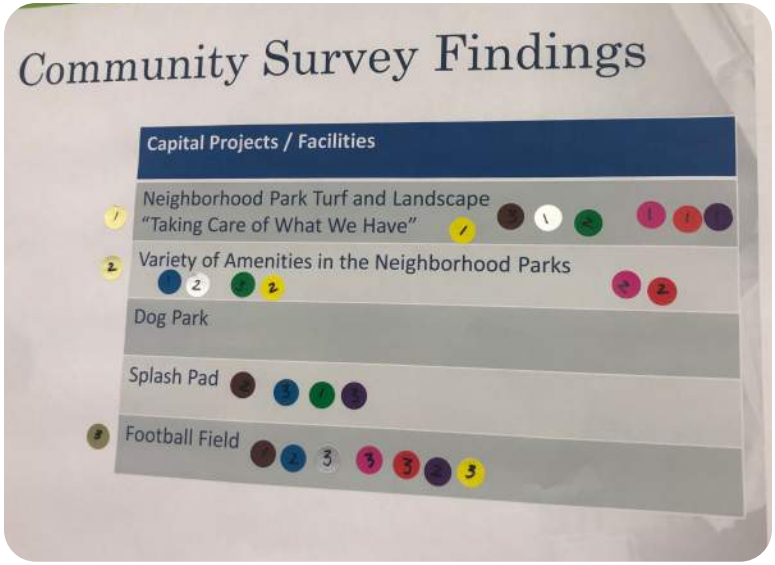
** Based upon Community Survey Findings

Management/Operating Factors - Stakeholders *		Management/Operating Factors - Survey **
Project/Asset Focus	**Priority Rank**	**Project/Asset Focus**
Partnerships and Affiliations	1	Improved Communication/Marketing: Branding
Comprehensive P&R Department	2	Programming Ages 0-5
Better Funding	3	Programming Ages 6-11
Appropriate Staffing Levels	4	Programming Ages 65+
Improved Communication/Marketing: Branding	5	Community Special Events
Diversify/Expand Recreation Programming	6	Develop Fee Policy
Online Registration	7	Develop Cancellation Policy

* Based upon Priority Ranking Process with Trustees

** Based upon Community Survey Findings

Interview Findings
Capital Projects / Facilities
Firemen's Park
Neighborhood Parks (3 total) "Taking Care of What We Have"
Land Acquisition
Expanded Recreation Program Space
More Sport Fields and Sport Courts
Trail and Sidewalk Connections
ADA Compliance – Legal Requirement
Splash Pad
18-hole Golf Course
Community Pool
FARNSWORTH GROUP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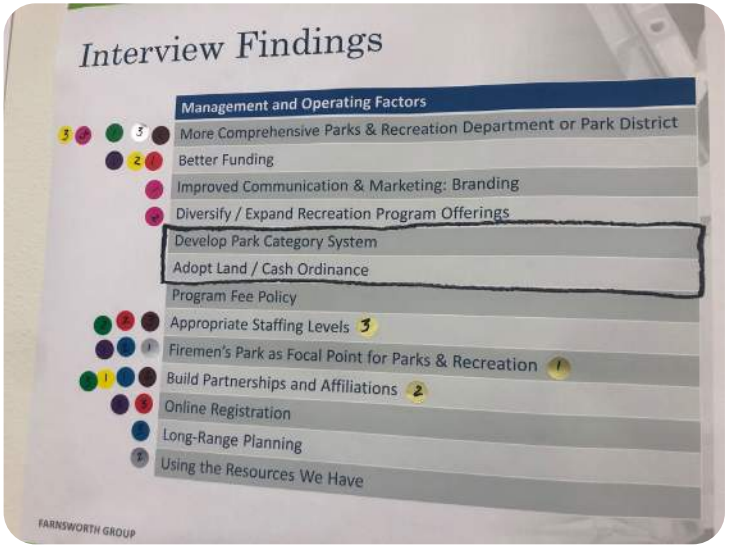
Football Field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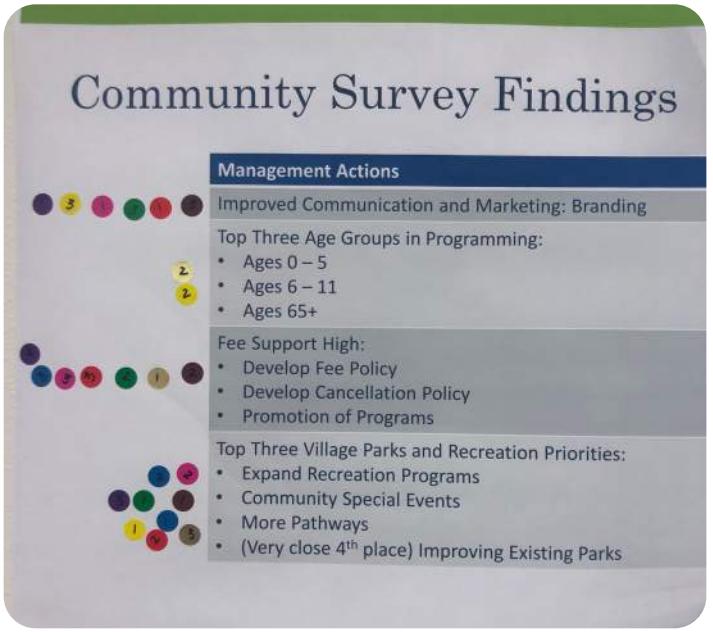
Using the Resources We Have
FARNSWORTH GROUP


Community Survey Findings
Management Actions
Improved Communication and Marketing: Branding
Top Three Age Groups in Programming:
• Ages 0 – 5
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• Ages 65+
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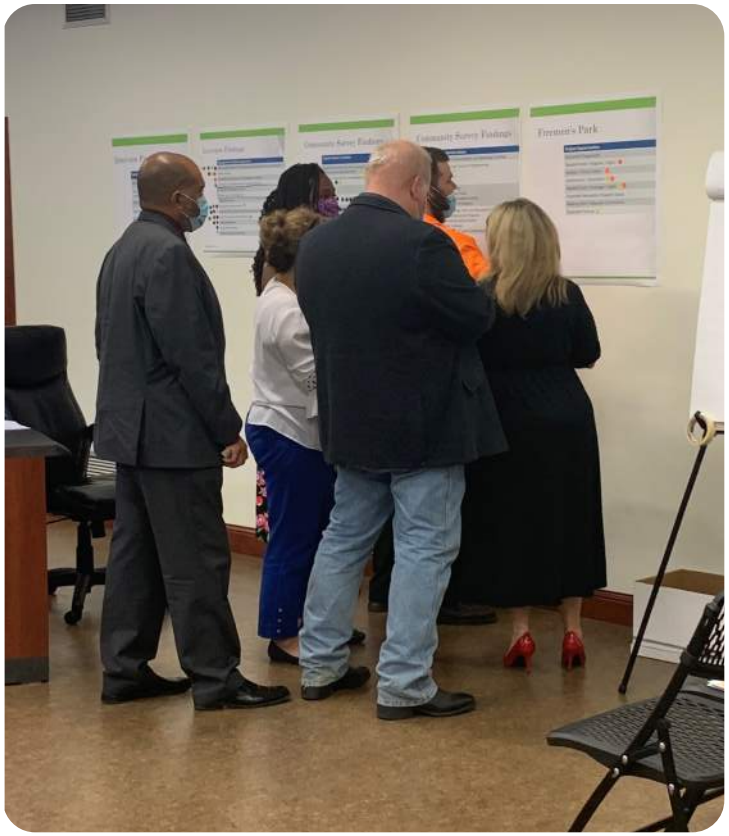
• Develop Fee Policy
• Develop Cancellation Policy
• Promotion of Programs
Top Three Village Parks and Recreation Priorities:
• Expand Recreation Programs
• Community Special Events
• More Pathways
• (Very close 4th place) Improving Existing Parks

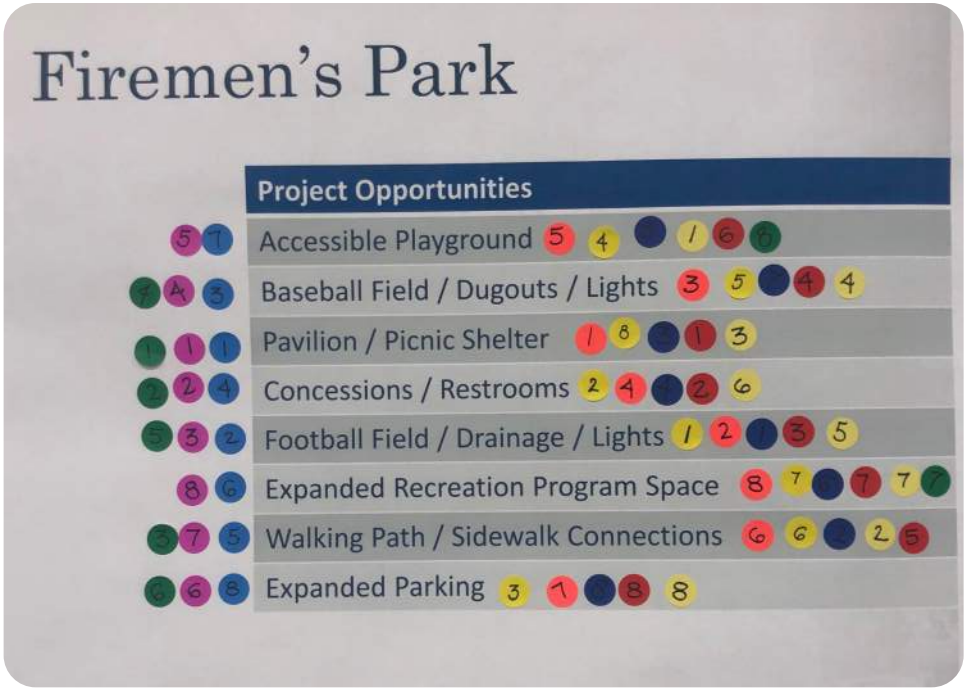
The final activity of the evening focused solely on improvements to Firemen's Park. Based on all data gathered prior to this event, it is overwhelmingly clear that Firemen's Park is a top priority for the Village of Monee, the Parks and Recreation Department and the community. What was lacking clarity is the priority for specific improvements and the order in which they should be planned for, if at all.

The Comprehensive Plan team created an overall list of the eight most desired park features. For the ranking activity, this time participants were given a total of 8 stickers numbered one through eight and were told to prioritize all items listed with 1 being the "Most Important" and 8 being the "Least Important" to them.



Firemen's Park

Project Opportunities
Accessible Playground
Baseball Field / Dugouts / Lights
Pavilion / Picnic Shelter
Concessions / Restrooms
Football Field / Drainage / Lights
Expanded Recreation Program Space
Walking Path / Sidewalk Connections
Expanded Parking



Firemen's Park Prioritization Analysis

Recreational Amenity	Ranking Values (1 - Most Important to 8 - Least Important)								Total Score	Overall Total Rank
Pavilion (Picnic Shelter)	1	1	1	1	8	3	1	3	19	1
Football Field / Drainage / Lights	5	3	2	1	2	1	3	5	22	2
Concessions / Restrooms	2	2	4	2	4	4	2	6	26	3
Baseball Field / Dugout / Lights	4	4	3	3	5	7	4	4	34	4
Walking Path / Sidewalk Connections	3	7	5	6	6	2	2	5	36	5
Accessible Playground	5	7	5	4	5	1	6	8	41	6
Expanded Parking	6	6	8	3	7	8	8	8	54	7
Expanded Recreation Program Space	8	6	8	7	6	7	7	7	56	8

* It was identified by the Village, community leaders, and community survey that Firemen's Park will take precedence for capital projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plans for the next 3 - 5 years.

** Amenities listed here were determined based off of key input from Village and community leaders, community survey results, and professional review. "Take care of what we have!"

Additional amenities not listed as identified in the information gathering process, that could be potentially considered for future development beyond this list at Firemen's Park or at another location within Monee are: dog park, splash pad, basketball courts, volleyball courts, and soccer fields.

Establishing a Mission and Vision

The cornerstone of future progress in Parks & Recreation at the Village of Monee will lie in setting a MISSION and VISION for the next five years.

The current mission and Goals are:

Mission

The Mission of the Monee Parks and Recreation Department is to strive to maximize our resources to provide the community with high quality and economic leisure opportunities; through open space preservation, park development and recreational program offerings. “Take Time Out for Recreation…There’s No Place Like Monee.”

Goals

The goals of the Monee Parks and Recreation Department are to enact community relations through program and special events that are designed to:

- Advance the reputation and image of the Village
- Be responsive to the recreational needs of all individuals
- Build relationships
- Create a positive climate
- Encourage community partnerships
- Promote the wise use of leisure time and generally enhance a strong sense of community
- Sustain giving programs

With this as a great starting point, it will be the role of the Department to translate the current mission into a NEW set of goals, replacing those listed, above along with clear objectives, and action statements that use the information in this plan to lay out five years of tangible/measurable and reasonable statements towards which the Department will work to “honor” the existing mission.

Harvard Business Review defines a vision statement as “what the organization wishes to be like ins some years time”. Furthermore, they define mission statement as “what business the organization is in”.

The Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department knows its mission to provide recreational facilities and programming to the community. It needs to define its vision, with an eye toward the future.

A possible vision statement could be:

The Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department will seek to evolve to a more balanced department managing both its parks and recreation services under “one roof”, seeking new resources other than tax dollars to improve and expand its existing services

Right now, it is observed that the Parks and Recreation Director is spending most of its time on recreational programming, is challenged by park issues, and needs to set some clear, defined goals for the future of parks and recreation in Monee. The Village and the Director of Parks and Recreation should give greater emphasis to parks matters moving forward creating a better balance of time and resources to both the parks and recreation programming components of this quality-of-life Department. Some suggested goals for the future will be found later in the plan in Chapter 3, but for now, our analysis has led us to this point.

To make clear, for the Village, how to look at setting goals, it might help to define them along with setting objectives and action statements to assure that those goals are achieved over the next five years.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Statements Defined

- Goals, objectives and actions

Strategic planning is a very important business activity. It is also important in the public sector areas such as education. It is practiced widely in both informal and formal structures. Strategic planning and decision processes should end with objectives and a roadmap or actions for ways to achieve them.

One of the core outcomes when drafting a strategic plan is to develop it in a way that is easily translatable into action plans. Most strategic plans address high level initiatives and over-arching goals, but they don't get articulated (translated) into day-to-day projects and tasks that will be required to achieve the plan. Terminology or word choice, as well as the level at which a plan is written, are both examples of easy ways to fail at translating your strategic plan in a way that makes sense and is executable to all employees.

Often, plans are filled with conceptual terms which don't tie into day-to-day realities for the staff who are expected to carry out the plan. The following terms have been used in strategic planning: desired end states, plans, policies, goals, objectives, strategies, tactics and actions. Definitions vary, overlap and fail to achieve clarity.

So that you can work with this process, moving forward, we felt it was important to share this information with you, along with some definitions of these items that are quite functional:

- Goals
- Objectives
- Action Statements

One model of organizing how a comprehensive plan sets out the ways or methods by which it will accomplish "things" over the coming years is by setting goals, objectives, and action statements in a hierarchy. The items listed, above, may be organized in a hierarchy by writing a goal, explaining specifically how the goal will be shown to be accomplished by writing an objective, and further detailing how staff will accomplish that objective by stating intermediate steps, known as action statements.

The Goal describes the "ideal" outcome, the next statement—the Objective—answers the question "How?", and the Action Statements break down the "HOW?" into intermediate steps that staff use as a "TO-DO LIST" for getting the work done to accomplish the Objective.

With this in mind, here are the definitions:

Goals

Points to a place where you want to end up and not to a place you are today. A goal is a statement of general purpose or intent which shows some relation to the Mission of the Organization. In other words, if our mission is to provide high quality recreation programs for citizens of Monee, a goal would not be: To sell stamps to residents of Will County. On the other hand, a goal could be: To increase the number of Special Events offered by the Monee Parks & Recreation Department in the next five years.

A goal can also be said to be a statement of desired outcomes to which effort is directed. As such, goals can be achieved only to the degree that their meaning is understood. To do this, definition is given to a goal by writing one or more measurable statements, known as objectives;

Objectives

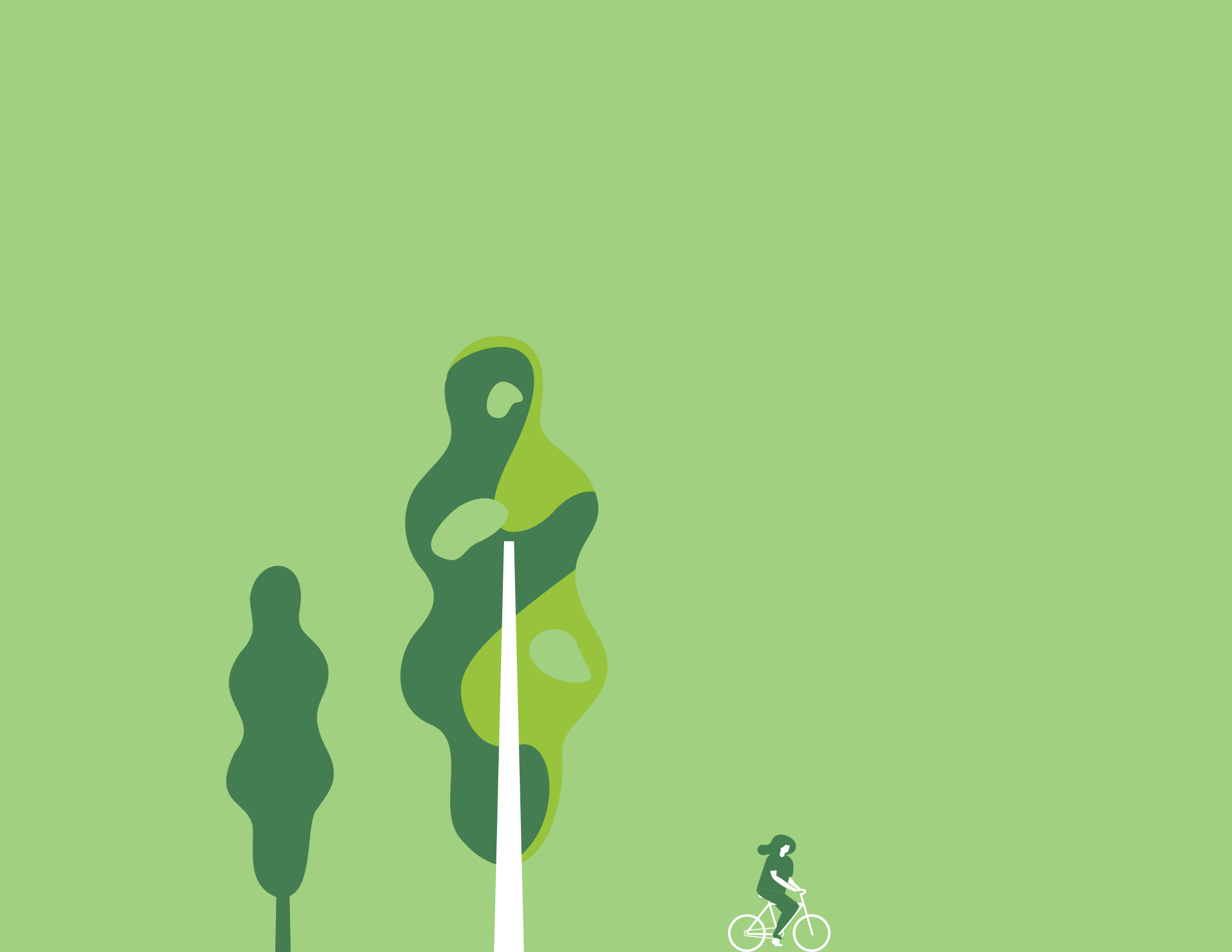
A specific measurable occurrence, product/service, or accomplishment that is made to achieve, or obtain an outcome in the future that will cause or demonstrate that a goal is being achieved. It usually states exactly what the end product will look like or appear to the customer with something that can be measurably evaluated. It also states who is expected to accomplish that objective, as well as by what date it will be accomplished. In order for the appropriate staff person to accomplish the Objective, they must spell out the specific tasks they plan to do to reach the Objective. These are the Action Statements;

Action Statements

They state what specific steps, along the way, will be taken to achieve the objective? Describe them in clear detail, and by what date they will be accomplished by whom. Put them in chronological order. Think of these as a detailed “TO DO” lists for each objective.

It is recommended that the Director of Parks and Recreation begin the work of translating the information presented in this Comprehensive Plan’s analysis (Ch. 2.1-2.3) into clear, measurable and actionable goals, objectives, and action statements.

Setting goals, objectives, and strategies for the Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department will be essential to the future of the department, and to afford it continued and growing success in the next five years and beyond.



03

Needs & Priorities Assessment

Parks & Recreation

The Village of Monee provides and maintains a system of parks that offer a range of recreational amenities both passive and active. Until now, however, the Village did not have an adopted park classification system. Not all recreational spaces are meant to serve the same purposes and adopting a classification system will provide a tool for the Parks and Recreation Department to evaluate current uses and further program its recreational spaces. We offer the following park categories and their definitions that should be adopted into the Zoning Ordinance:

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Minimum Standard
Mini Park	Used for limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance of residential area.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and also one acre in size.	Usually flowers beds, some sculpture or other unique features. No bathrooms or parking
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	Up to 5 acres in size. Sometimes larger.	Usually playground, Pavilion and or other feature substituted. Large open space with no parking or bathrooms.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 25 to 50 acres.	Large open space with some neighborhood features. Some natural areas or small # of sports fields, parking and some bath-rooms.
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.	Rain Gardens. Pond shorelines. Maybe bathrooms. Educational/ Interpretive. Trails. Pavilions. Some parking on occasion.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide faculties.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Heavy demand parking. Bathrooms. Specializes sports fields.
Special Use	Covers a Broad range of parks and recreations facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable.	Usually bathrooms, lots of parking, power and other utility demands. Fee basis.

Based on these classifications, the following table summarizes the parks and open spaces designated by the Village and their recreational amenities:

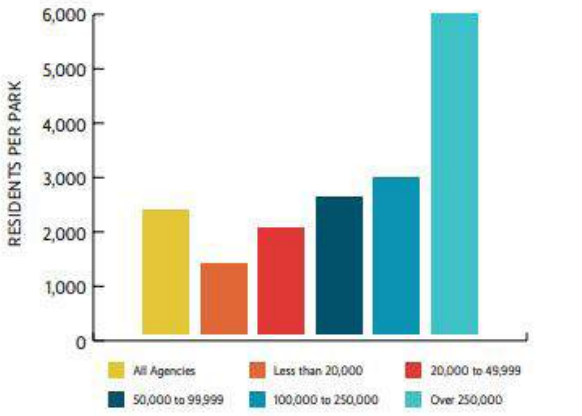
PARKS		acres	BASEBALL DIAMOND	SOFTBALL DIAMOND	CONCESSIONS	FOOTBALL FIELD	LODGING / FACILITY / ROOM RENTALS	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS / COMFORT STATION	PAVILION / SHELTER	PICNIC TABLES	BENCHES	SECURITY LIGHTING
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS													
Friendship Park	25645 Lilac Avenue	0.83						1			1	1	X
Potawatomi Park	5709 W. Court Street	0.68						1			1	3	X
Sunrise Park	5330 W. Orchard Trail	0.65						1			1	1	X
	SUBTOTAL	2.16											
COMMUNITY PARKS													
Firemen's Park	5218 W. Court Street	8.66	1	1	2	1	1	1		1			X
	SUBTOTAL	8.66											
NATURAL AREAS													
Eagle Fair Open Space	Countyfair Drive	0.86											
Gorman Farm Open Space	S. Winfield Road	7.83											
	SUBTOTAL	8.69											
	TOTAL	19.51	1	1	2	1	1	4	0	1	3	5	

Until now, Monee has not adopted an ordinance stating their intentions for park acreage per 1,000 residents which can help guide park development and planning for land acquisitions. Currently, the Monee Parks and Recreation Department does not advertise their two natural areas as shown in the Facilities Matrix above as open and available to the public for recreational use, so for our comparison purposes we should exclude that acreage, but these are available land assets that the Village should take advantage of in the future. Recommended improvements for these spaces will be outlined later in this chapter.

Total park acreage offered between the four dedicated parks is 10.82 acres. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends 10 acres per 1,000 residents, which for Monee would mean they fall short at 2.13 acres per 1,000 residents (using 5,082 current population data via US Census Bureau). However, it is no longer common practice to make general comparisons to the national averages because there is so much variation across communities regarding population, budgets, staff, available resources, and community needs and desires. Instead, a better method of assessment is that of benchmarking, a comparison to averages of communities that share similar attributes. The *2020 NRPA Agency Performance Report* provides median values for communities based on populations, but more importantly highlights the lower quartile averages (lowest 25%) and the upper quartile averages (highest 25%). As shown in the Report Figures 1 & 2 below, for populations less than 20,000, Monee should likely strive for standards of no more than 1,300 residents per park and no less than 5.2 acres per 1,000 residents. With 4 total park spaces, Monee averages 1,270 residents per park which is in line with where they should fall. Adding the two Natural Areas would increase their overall acreage to 19.51 for an average of 3.84 acres per 1,000 residents which starts to bring them more in line with what they should strive to achieve. It is recommended that the Village adopt the following standard:

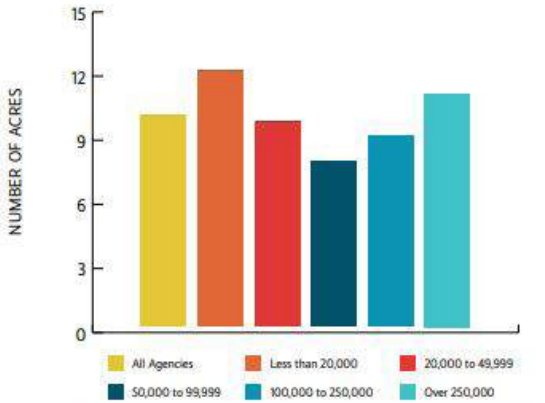
5 Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents

FIGURE 1: RESIDENTS PER PARK (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Median	2,281	1,300	1,963	2,523	2,889	5,908
Lower Quartile	1,316	908	1,233	1,560	1,914	2,818
Upper Quartile	4,140	2,037	3,140	4,518	5,135	15,286

FIGURE 2: ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Median	9.9	12.0	9.6	7.7	8.9	10.9
Lower Quartile	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.7	5.0	5.3
Upper Quartile	17.1	20.8	15.0	17.1	14.9	17.9

FIREMEN'S PARK

Community Park

address:
5218 West Court Street
8.66 Acres

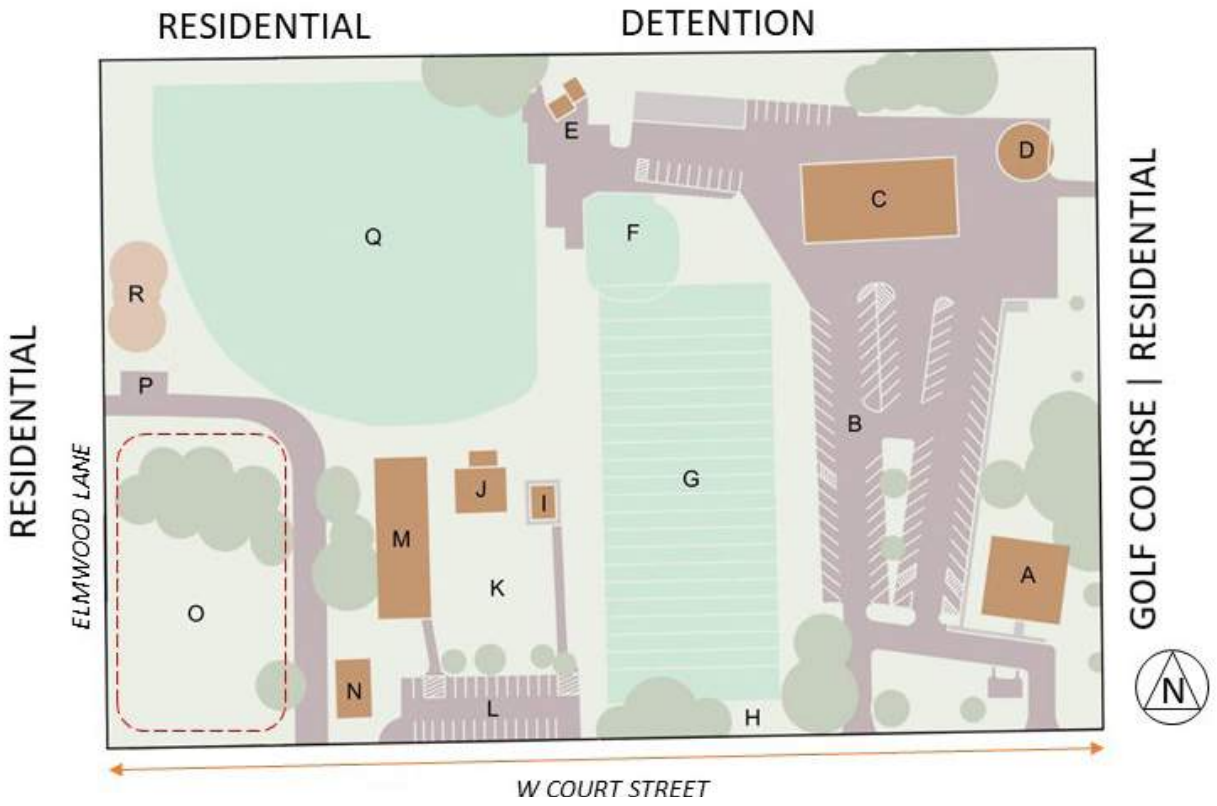
Amenities

- Baseball Diamond
- Softball Diamond
- Football Field
- Playground
- Pavilion Shelter
- Concessions
- Facility/Room Rental
- Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Bench Seating

Site Analysis Plan

Key:

A. Current Village Hall, potential for proposed relocation
B. Parking lot re-striping needed
C. Public Works building to be relocated
D. Salt storage to be relocated
E. Concessions location not central to park facilities
F. Softball field not regulation size, poor orientation and overlaps football field
G. Football field needs grading and improved drainage
H. Park identification sign in fair condition, no landscape
I. Football Press box/Concessions needs replaced, no restrooms
J. Creamery, restoration underway
K. Lawn area
L. Parking lot needs paved and striping
M. Community building in good condition, Pavilion needs replaced
N. Unnecessary storage structure
O. Unutilized park space divided by access road
P. Playground parking inadequate
Q. Baseball field, poor orientation
R. Playground outdated, no ADA access



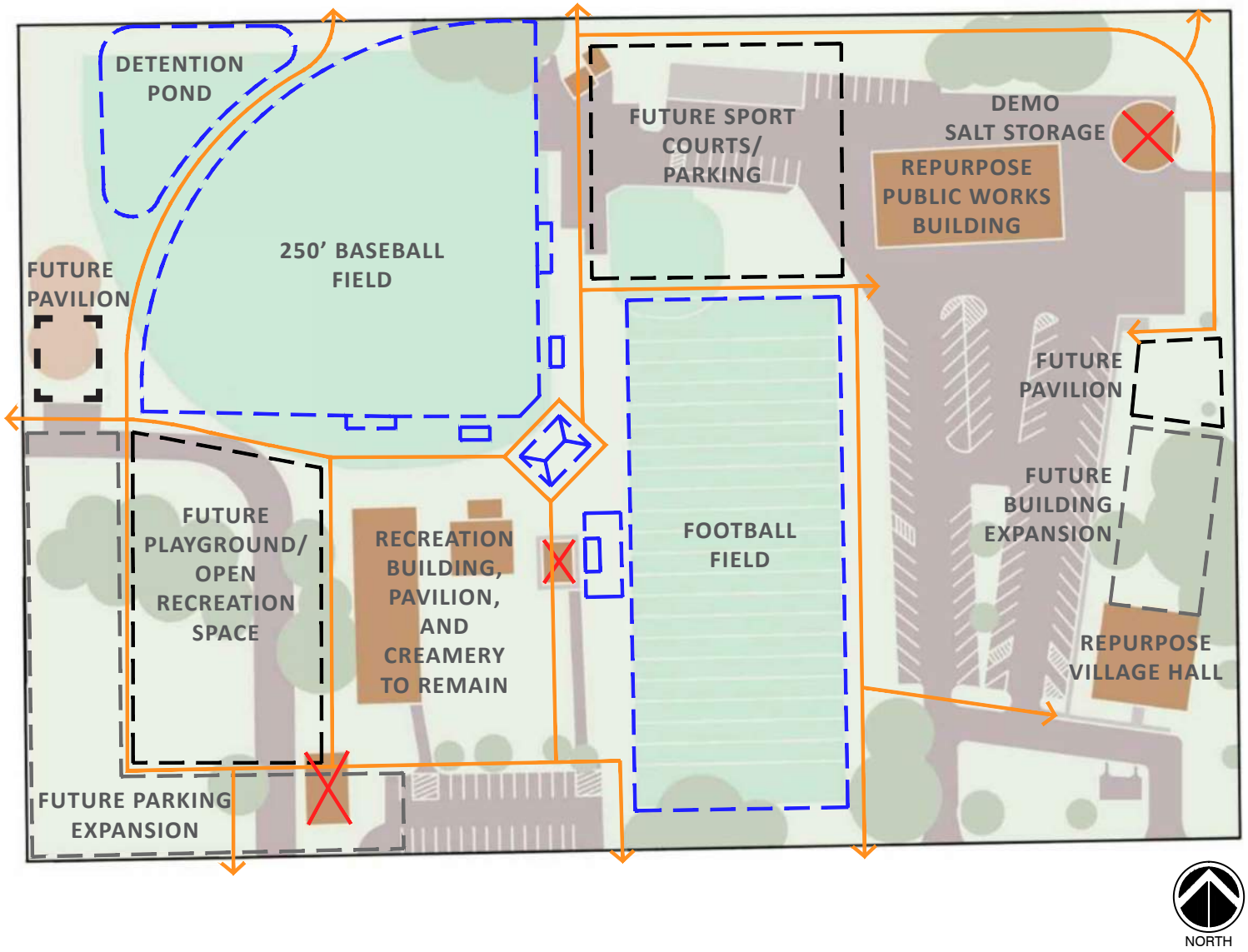
Immediate Concerns

- Football field needs to have grading and drainage issues addressed to improve playability
- Eliminate softball field that overlaps with football field
- Re-orient and rebuild 250' baseball field, which will address drainage issues and improve facility conditions to include dugouts and bleachers
- Demolish existing concession building and build centrally located concessions building with accessible public restrooms which are currently not provided for in the park
- Provide paved accessible pedestrian circulation routes from parking and public sidewalk to improved facilities/amenities

Recommended Enhancements

- New park signage and landscaping
- Vacate S. Eastgate Avenue from W. Court Street and W. Astor Place to Elmwood Lane, use area for additional recreation open space and overflow event parking
- Demolish storage building in "front yard" of park
- Analyze and re-stripe existing east parking lot for added efficiency
- Public Works to be relocated, potential to repurpose building for recreation and programming
- Salt storage relocated near new Public Works building, and building demolished
- Re-purpose existing Village Hall building for Recreation if Village Hall is ultimately relocated
- Relocate larger playground site just west of Recreation building with new and accessible playground equipment for all age groups
- Consider area north of football field for potential sport courts, e.g. tennis/pickleball, basketball, sand volleyball
- Create additional paved pedestrian connections between park amenities providing ultimately for an accessible looped walking experience throughout the park
- Expand parking lot along Court Street and Elmwood Lane frontage
- Add (2) small picnic shelters/pavilions that could be used for rentals and generate revenue; one in location of old playground and one north of future recreation building/current Village Hall
- Determine if future recreation building expansion is needed and feasible north of current Village Hall
- Create additional detention facility in NW corner of park if required with facility/amenity development
- Additional trees and landscaping in strategic locations throughout the park to frame spaces and provide shade

Firemen's Park Concept Plan



FRIENDSHIP PARK

Neighborhood Park

Address:
25645 Lilac Lane
0.83 Acres

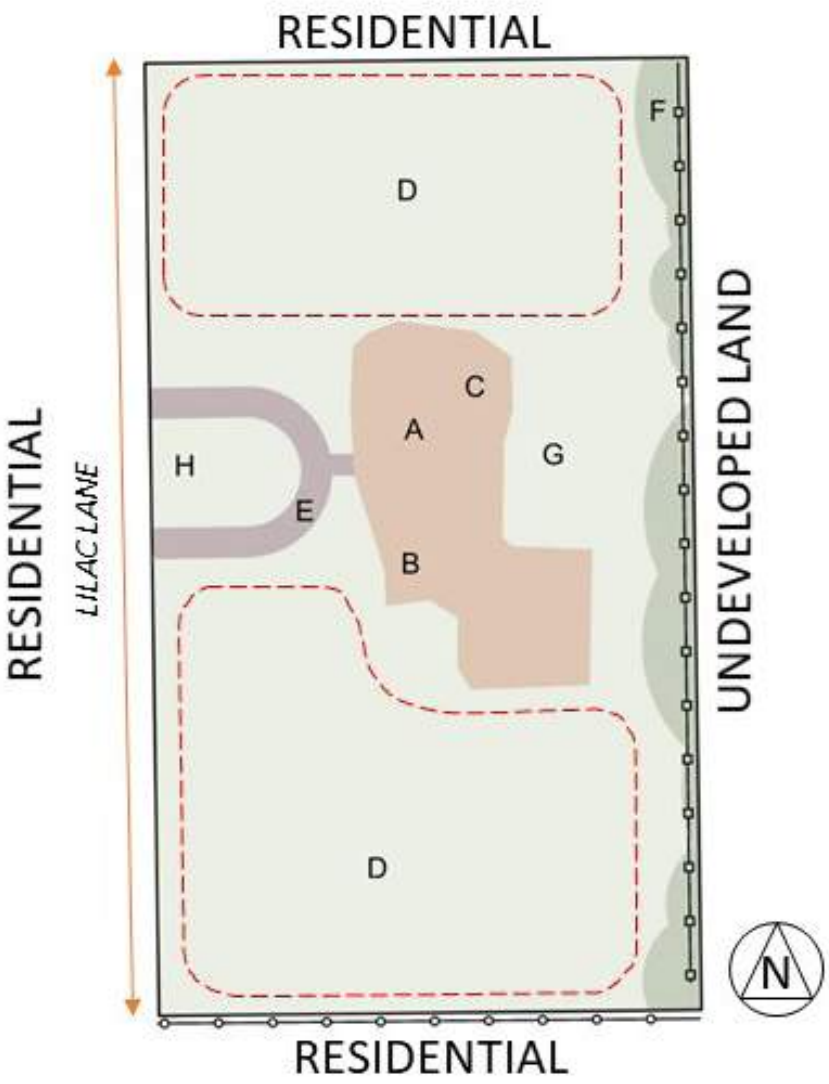
Amenities

- Playground
- Open Space
- Picnic Table
- Bench Seating

Site Analysis Plan

Key:

A. Playground equipment outdated
B. Pea gravel surfacing inadequate to meet safety standards in fall zones
C. Picnic table is directly adjacent to play equipment within fall zone
D. Recreation open space
E. Paved sidewalk connection to public sidewalk
F. Vinyl fence in need of repairs
G. Security lighting
H. Signage in poor condition



Immediate Concerns:

- Playground shall be evaluated by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector to ensure it meets current safety requirements
- Remove picnic table from play equipment safety zone and onto adjacent lawn
- Evaluate park access and play equipment for ADA compliance

Recommended Enhancements:

- Replace playground equipment with new inclusive equipment
- Replace pea gravel with Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) or other playground safety surface rated for appropriate play equipment fall height
- Plant additional trees and/or shelter for shade opportunities
- Repair fencing if owned by Village
- Utilize open space for additional recreational amenity

POTAWATOMI PARK

Neighborhood Park

Address:
5709 W Court Street
6.67 Acres

Amenities

- Playground
- Open Space
- Picnic Table
- Bench Seating

Site Analysis Plan

Key:

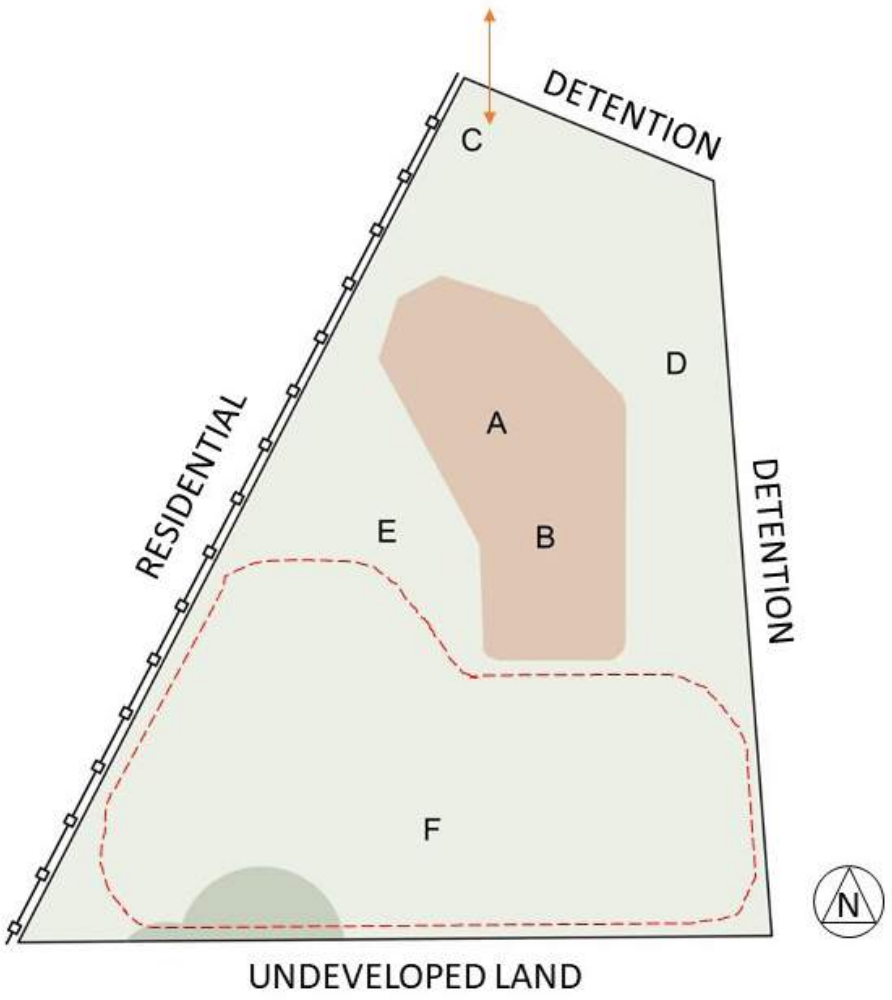
A. Playground outdated
B. Pea gravel surfacing inadequate to meet safety standards in fall zones
C. Paved park access point is set back from road quite a ways, low visibility
D. Picnic table sitting on turf, adjacent to large detention area
E. Security lighting
F. Potential recreation/open space adjacent to undeveloped land

Immediate Concerns:

- Playground shall be evaluated by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector to ensure it meets current safety requirements
- Extend paved access to edge of playground
- Evaluate park access and play equipment for ADA compliance

Recommended Enhancements:

- Replace playground equipment with new inclusive equipment
- Replace pea gravel with Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) or other playground safety surface rated for appropriate play equipment fall height
- Utilize open space for additional recreational amenity



SUNRISE PARK

Neighborhood Park

Address:
5330 West Orchard Trail
0.65 Acres

Amenities:

- Playground
- Open Space
- Picnic Table
- Bench Seating

Site Analysis Plan

Key:

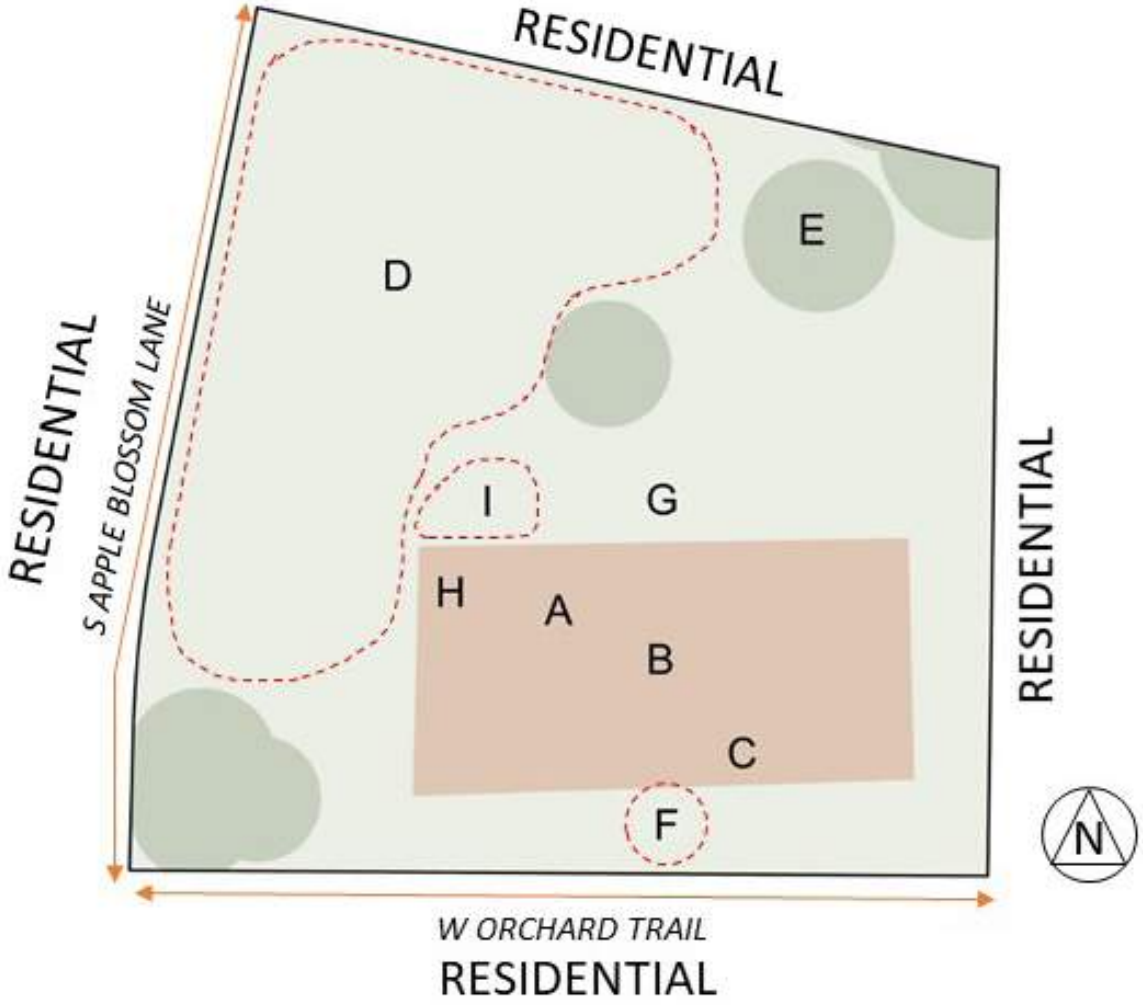
A. Playground outdated
B. Pea gravel surfacing inadequate to meet safety standards in fall zones
C. Playground signage potentially within fall zone of slide exit
D. Usable open space for recreation
E. Evergreen trees create opportunity for hiding and pose security issues
F. No connection between public sidewalk and ramped playground entrance
G. Security lighting
H. Picnic table sitting directly adjacent to play equipment within fall zone
I. Low spot with drainage issues

Immediate Concerns:

- Remove picnic table from playground safety zone and place on lawn adjacent
- Playground shall be evaluated by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector to ensure it meets current safety requirements
- Evaluate park access and play equipment for ADA compliance

Recommended Enhancements:

- Provide paved access from public sidewalk to playground
- Remove evergreen trees
- Fix grading at NW corner of playground so water drains properly
- Replace playground equipment with new inclusive equipment



- Replace pea gravel with Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) or other playground safety surface rated for appropriate play equipment fall height
- Utilize open space for additional recreational amenity

GORMAN FARM OPEN SPACE

Natural Area

Address:
S Winfield Road
7.83 Acres

Amenities:

- Open Space
- Detention

Immediate Concerns:

- None

Recommended Enhancements:

- Evaluate existing vegetation
- Mitigate invasive plant species, if necessary, and plant native perennials, shrubs, and deciduous trees to create additional habitat for insects, birds, and small animals
- Create pedestrian trail to loop throughout open space
- Provide educational signage

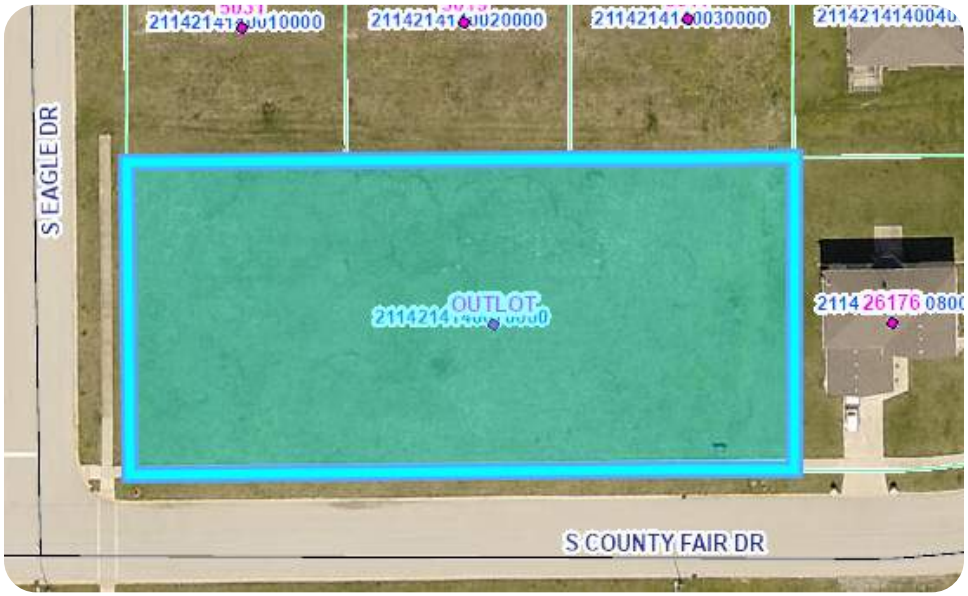
EAGLE FAIR OPEN SPACE

Natural Area

Address:
Corner of S. Eagle Drive and S. Countyfair Drive
0.86 Acres

Amenities:

- Open Space



Immediate Concerns:

- None

Recommended Enhancements:

- Based on less than one acre size and location within a housing development, evaluate neighborhood demographics and determine potential for development into a neighborhood park with active recreation opportunities that differ from Sunrise Park nearby

Recreation & Program Assessment

As a Department of the Village, it is generally observed that the Parks and Recreation Department is quite strong in its Recreation Management, overall. An assessment of the Recreation and Program functions of the Department can help modify, improve, focus and guide the Department to be:

- Clearer in its purpose.
- Efficient in use of staff time for programming.
- Focused on key program areas.
- Defined in its budgeting and allocation of resources.

Overview

First, let's give some consideration to broad observations and assessments of the Recreation/Programming aspects of the Village with a focus specifically on program strengths and weaknesses and facility trengths and weaknesses.

Our assessment, here, is drawn from a three-year review of recreation programming at the Village of Monee using a tool referred to as a "Program Evaluation Cube" developed by J. Robert Rossman at Illinois State University (see Appendix).

It is essential to understand that the village should be proud of the diversity of its programming given the population size served. Clearly, the emphasis on programming over the past three years has paid great dividends.

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

- Over 116 different types of programs offered with 221 different sessions of those programs being spread out over the last three years.
- Programs Offered for a great number of age groups from pre-school through older adult.
- The age group of 5 to 12 has the highest number of programs offered which seems to parallel the demand for programming identified in the community wide survey.
- Most other age groups have between 6 and 12 percent of the program offerings which reflects a strong balance across age groups.
- The Village is especially strong in its offerings for Sports and for the Visual/Performing Arts.
- After Sports and Visual/Performing Arts Programming, SPECIAL EVENTS is quite strong.
- Cancellation of programs is nearly NON-EXISTENT in the "Under 5" Age programming.
- A MODERATE number of cancellations occur in the Adult, Active Older Adult, and Older Adult Age groups.

PROGRAM WEAKNESSES

- The program cancellation rate is 47%, a bit high compared to national averages that run closer to 35%.
- There are program areas that are completely without current program offerings including:
  - Aquatics
  - Camps
  - Trade/Technical Programs
  - Environmental Programming
- Some age groups have very little programming offered for them. These would include:
  - Young Adults: 18 to 25
  - Adults: 25 to 55
  - Older Adults: Over 72
- Cancellation of programs is VERY HIGH in the High School and Young Adult Age groups.
- A MODERATE number of cancellations occur in the Adult, Active Older Adult, and Older Adult Age groups.

FACILITY STRENGTHS

- Sports Fields are quite numerous and greatly used.
- The Village has recreation fields and buildings that other communities of its size lack.
- The neighborhood parks have playgrounds.
- The Community Building is relatively new and is well-used.
- Having a Community Building is better than what many communities the size of Monee have.
- Except for major sport days and special events, there is plenty of parking to support the Community Building.

FACILITY WEAKNESSES

- The Parks and Recreation "office" is LOST, and difficult for folks to find. Some emphasis will be placed on this in the Marketing (Branding) information later in this Plan.
- The office space provided is essentially a storage area, not designed for public interaction, or productivity.
- The Pavilion that adjoins the Community Building needs complete replacement.
- Playgrounds need renovation in some cases, and ADA Accessibility review and modifications.
- Classroom space in the Community Building is not very functional.
- Classroom space, overall, does not lend itself to expanding or diversifying programming.
- Sports field orientation and drainage are major challenges.
- Parking for Special Events and Busy Sport Days is Restrictive.

Recreation Program Focus

Many large communities work very hard to offer a broad group of programs to meet the needs of various ages, various interests/activity preferences, and special events as they feel it essential to provide services to all taxpayers. In smaller communities, with less diverse resources, it is essential to choose/focus on specific program areas, do them well, and establish a reputation for quality, successful programming. Monee has taken its first steps towards provision of quality recreation programming, and needs to be careful not to push too far beyond its human and financial resources. Careful weighing of priorities, and setting an eye on efforts for the next five years will help Monee Parks & Recreation to continue to grow without trying to do too much.

Farnsworth Group uses a process of review of basic program statistics using a tool known as **The Program Evaluation Cube (see Appendix)**, to bring light to matters such as:

- Where too much time is being spent on programming.
- What programming is "succeeding", or not.
- What is trending in recreation programming in the Village of Monee.
- How programming is reaching residents, or not.

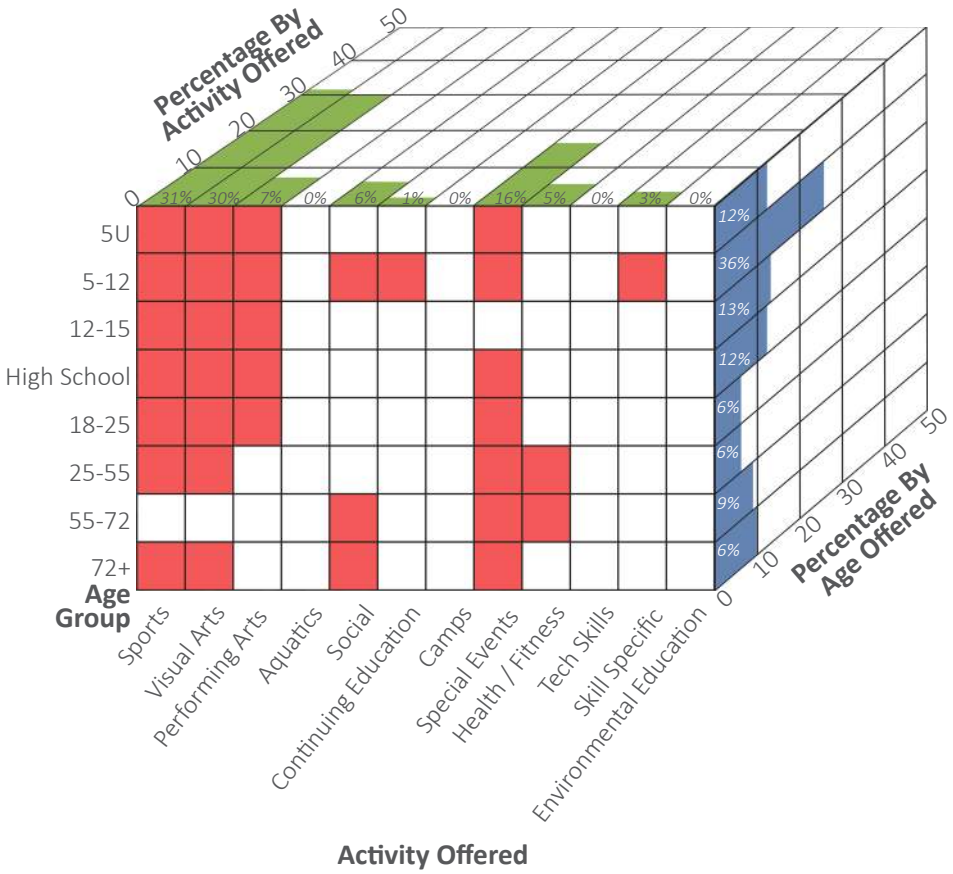
Let's take a look at some broad areas of comparison of existing programming in Monee, based upon three years of programs offered in Monee, AND the user data from those programs

Percentage of Programming Overall by Age

The clear impact of Monee recreation programming is being felt by those individuals aged 5 to 12—where 36% of Monee programming has been attempted. This is not an uncommon age group to focus on for successful recreation programming in many communities where recreation is being offered.

Three other age groups—5 and under, 12 to 15, and high school age—garner 37% of Monee's attempted programming, combined (12%, 13%, and 12%, respectively) of the village's programming.

That leaves four other age groups—young adults, adults, active older adults and older adults—to share the smaller, remaining piece of the programming puzzle.



Percentage of Programming by Activity Type

It is not surprising to find that 31% of all programming offered in Monee is sports related, followed closely by 30% of attempted programming in the visual arts category. Now, if you combine this with performing arts programming, which garners 7% of Monee's program offerings, then the arts category programming is actually greater than sports programming at 37%.

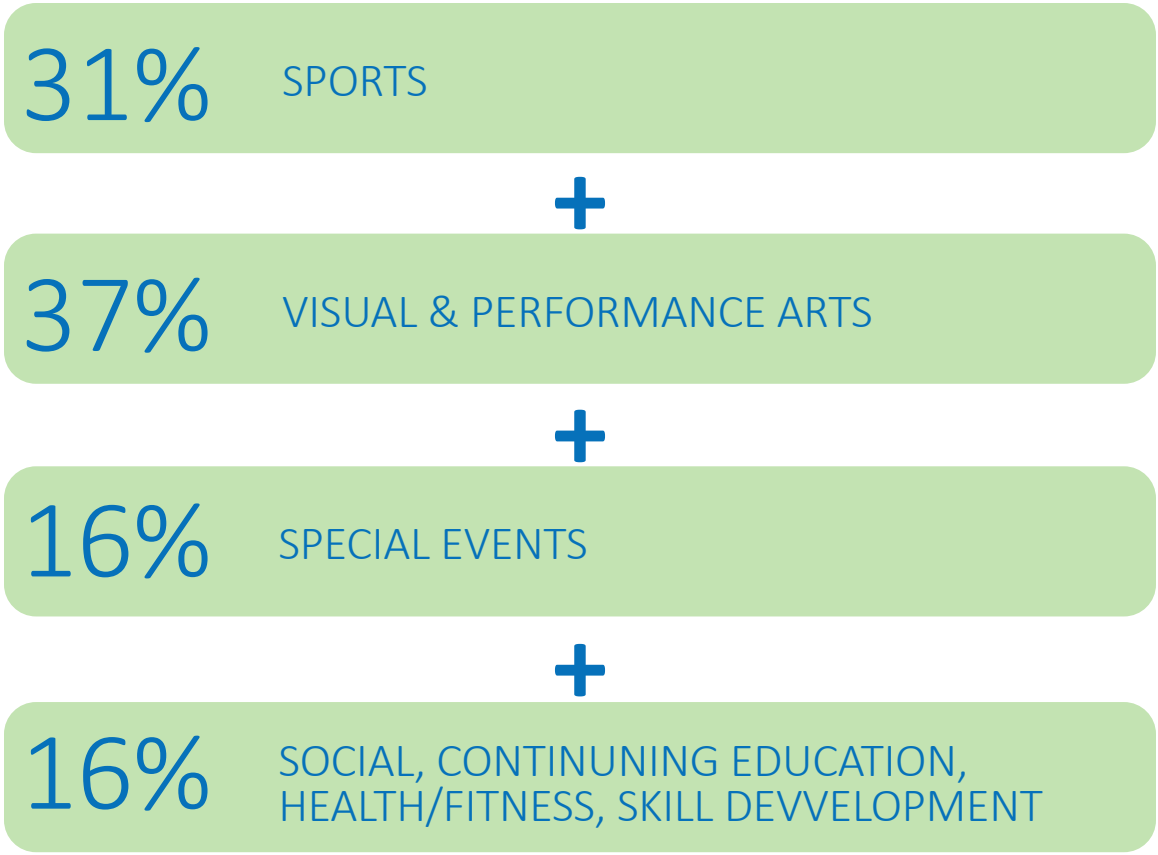
Special events makes up 16% of the programming in Monee, as the only other "large" programming category offered by Monee Parks & Recreation.

All other programming offered combines for the remaining 16%:

- Social
- Continuing Education
- Health/Fitness
- Skill Development

Monee does not currently offer these other common areas of programming found in most other communities:

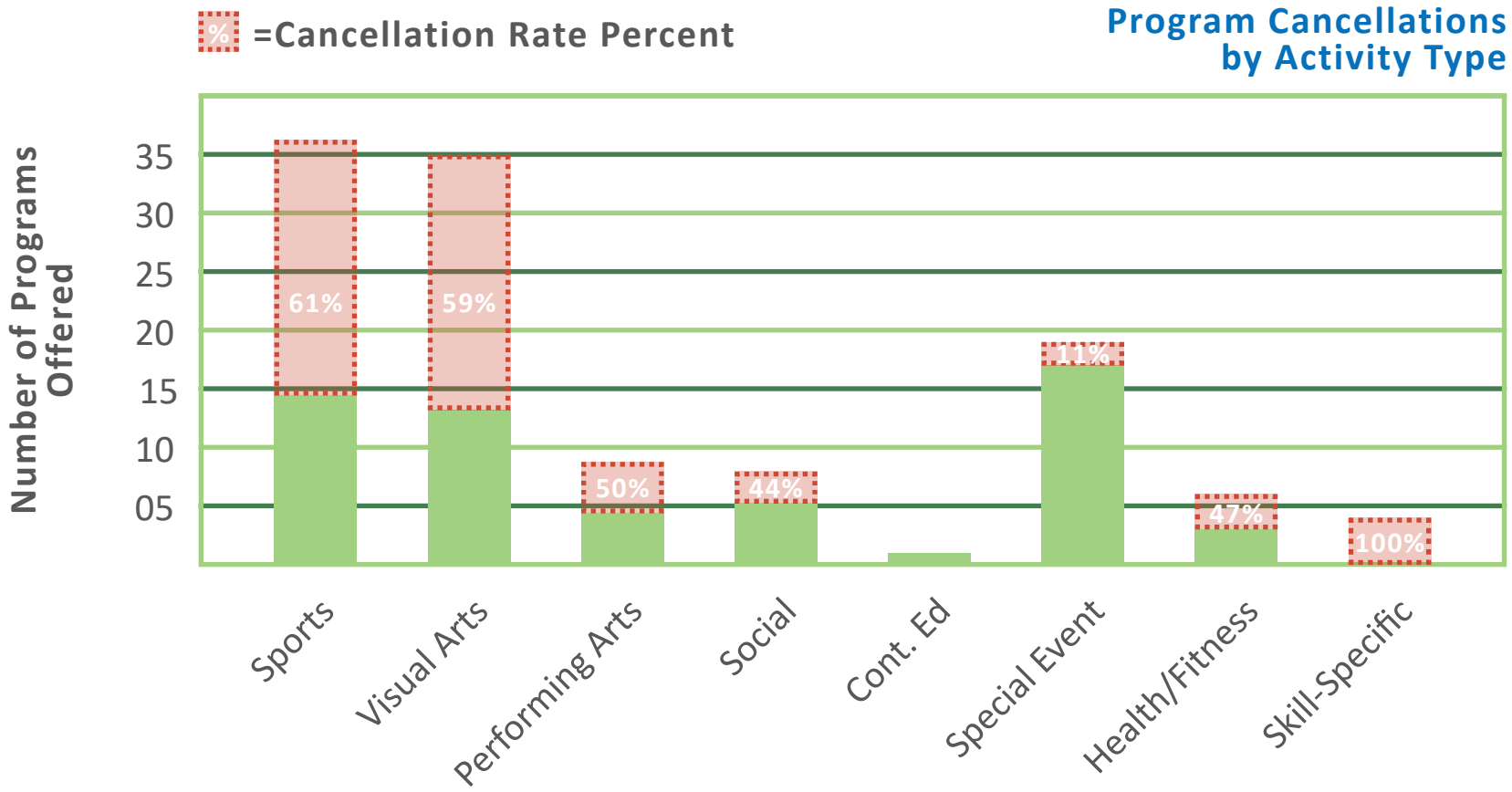
- Aquatics
- Camps
- Technical Skills
- Environmental Education



Program Cancellations by Age and Activity Type

The program evaluation cube showed that a lot of planning and preparation work went into programming for Young Adults- Ages 18 to 25, High School Age, Older Adults- Ages 72+, and Middle School- Ages 12 to 15. All of it, however, with very little success; high cancellation rates of programming in these age groups was a direct result of a lack of sufficient enrollment in order to successfully run the program.

This bar graph below shows that while SPORTS and VISUAL ARTS programming have the greatest number of programs offered, overall, they also have the two largest cancellation rates. In and of itself, this does not mean too much, as a 61% cancellation rate in sports still means a lot of programs are reaching a sufficient enrollment level to run the program.



Many people consider a high cancellation rate to be totally bad. The perspective Monee Parks & Recreation should understand is that a cancellation rate that is high—above 35%—should tell its staff that:

1. Much planning and preparation is being done for naught. Offer a little less, and use the "saved" planning time to promote, better, the programs you do offer.
2. Attention must be given to assuring that you are offering programs that are really of interest to the age group you are offering them to, or to your population in general.

For example, a program area like SOCIAL ACTIVITES, where 7 programs were offered and 47% were cancelled means that very few SOCIAL programs were of success and/or reached as many as it might if the "success rate" (opposite of cancellation) were higher. Staff should consider this in the future as it plans for SOCIAL programming.

Recreation Management Focus

Part of the overall assessment process by Farnsworth Group came through:

- Direct Observation
- Interviews of Staff, Community Leaders and Elected Officials
- Review of Current Systems and Policies within the Village
- Public Prioritization Process with Trustees and Staff

We have used these various approaches to get at core issues that should be considered by the Village of Monee as it plans and carries out its Parks & Recreation functions over the next five years of this plan. Many of these steps will allow the Village to greatly advance its successes in:

- Programming
- Sourcing Funds Other Than Tax Dollars: Grants, Donations, Sponsorships
- Park Improvements
- More Efficient Management

Farnsworth Group recommends the following items need serious consideration in the planning horizon of this long-range plan:

Program Budget Procedure

The cornerstone of any successful governmental budgeting process for parks and recreation includes the distinct and clear delineation of Operating Budget and Capital Budget for Parks and Recreation, each year. Furthermore, it requires that the Trustees and Village Administrator include the Director of Parks and Recreation in the creation of both of those budgets, annually. Regular attendance of the Director of Parks and Recreation at all Council Meetings, and inclusion in Department Head meetings with Public Works and the Village Administrator could all assist in developing the Director of Parks and Recreation's appreciation for the challenges of the overall Village of Monee Budget and the Management Challenges of Police, Fire, Public Works, etc.

Individually, the Director of Parks and Recreation should:

- Develop a Trustee Approved Pricing/Fee Philosophy
- Develop a Trustee Approved Delineation of:
  - What Portion of the Village Budget will be Allocated to Parks & Recreation
  - What Portion of the Parks & Recreation Budget must be Supported by Program Fees and Charges
  - What Portion of Program Fees will Contribute to Overhead Costs

- Create a well-defined fee structure for use of:
  - » Ball Diamonds
  - » Sports Fields
  - » Pavilions/Shelters
  - » Score Boxes/Concessions
  - » Bathrooms
  - » Buildings/Classrooms
- Define Which User Groups Pay More, OR Less for the Various Use Fees, above.
- Establish a clear budget tool to determine the cost of each program, and guide it in setting a fee to charge for those programs, which factors:
  - » Direct costs of the program
  - » Indirect costs of the program
  - » "Markup" Policy

Niche or Gap Assessment

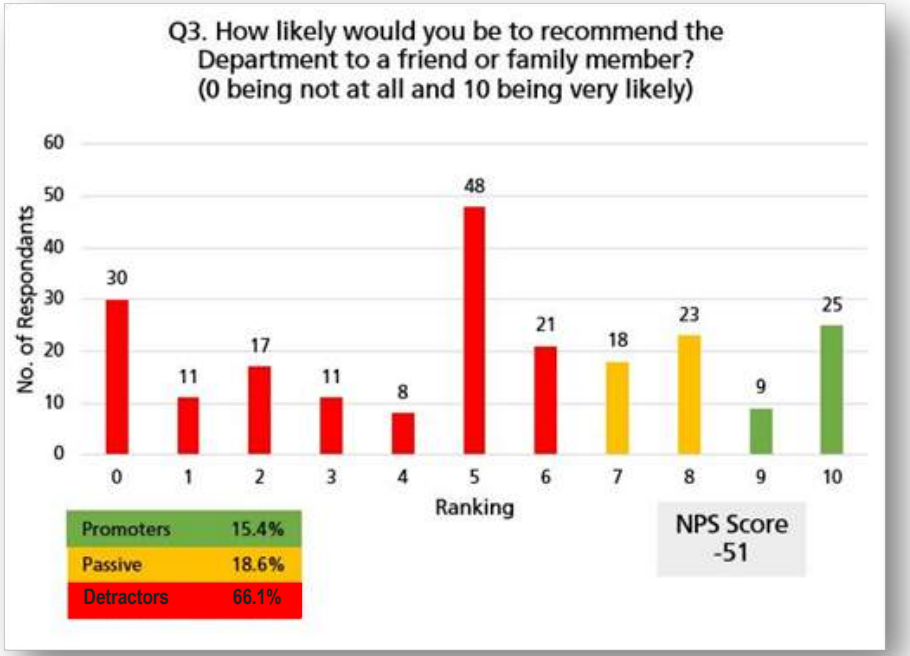
This management component will require annual, or every-other-year assessment, by the Director of Parks & Recreation, with input and policy/prioritization guidance from the Village Administrator and Trustees.

Basically, the Director of Parks & Recreation should use The Program Evaluation Cube tool to:

1. Observe cancellation rates by:
   a. Age Group
   b. Activity Type
2. Observe how much programming is being offered for each age group, and determine:
   a. If the time being spent is worth the number of people being reached
   b. If the budget cost committed to that programming is worth the number of people being reached
   c. If the current staff can keep achieving the level/number of programs being offered
3. Identify "new" program areas or "trends" and budget to add those programs, while dropping others.
4. Conduct community surveys to assure program needs are being met.
5. Ask the Village Administrator and Trustees to define the "limits" of your resources, and:
   a. Which age groups should be highest priority with limited resources
   b. Which activity types are highest priority given the facilities and parks available to offer them

Marketing and Branding

Perhaps the single most significant factor that stood out in the Parks & Recreation Survey conducted for the Village of Monee by Farnsworth Group was the response to Question 3:



How likely would you be to recommend the DEPARTMENT to a friend or Family member?

Notably, two-thirds of respondents are what survey professionals would label as "Detractors"

The Oxford English Language Dictionary defines a "Detractor" as "a person who disparages someone or something". While the Farnsworth Group does not feel that its residents are disparaging the efforts of the Parks & Recreation Department in Monee, the Village should take considerable note of this survey-finding.

Indeed, Monee Parks & Recreation should be very proud of what it is doing for its residents in terms of parks and recreation. However, all planning for the future, as guided by this Plan, should factor the importance of the finding of this survey question into its efforts toward improvement. Taxpayer expectations are often at the root of these matters, and should be weighed heavily by the Parks & Recreation Director, the Village Administrator, and the Trustees.

Survey comments related to this question focused on:

- Lack of knowledge of parks available
- Lack of knowledge of recreation programming available
- Lack of variety in programming
- Not enough programming
- Not enough special events
- Quality of parks and/or facilities

Residents can always find criticism for programs and services in the community in which they live. That will never end. What the Village of Monee must take to heart is the core/overall impression which is reflected in the graphic on the previous page.

Nonetheless, don't overlook the positives:

- 78% of your residents surveyed have visited one of your parks in the last year
- 44% of your residents surveyed have attended at least one organized program in the last year

Both of these statistics come very close to the national averages as reported in NRPA's *2018 Americans' Engagement With Parks Report*, which as discussed previously are not always good benchmarks, but in this case these statistics are good indicators of the quality of the parks and programs being offered.

What is often the core CAUSE of the "lack of knowledge", OR the "not enough" comments are:

- Weak Communication
- Lack of Marketing or Clear Message
- Need for Greater Public Involvement/Input to What Programming and Park Issues Should Be Addressed
- Ease of Access to the Monee Parks & Recreation "PRODUCT".
- Understanding How to "Compete" with Others Who Offer Recreation

To reduce the number of program cancellations…….
To increase the number of program parcticipants……
To help more residents to find their nearby parks……
To inform residents/taxpayers of the variety of programming available……

All of these require stronger MARKETING and BRANDING of Monee Parks & Recreation.

Marketing

Alayna Frankenberry, of BLUESKY Marketing, elaborates on what Marketing is in recreation and parks:

"While many businesses sell tangible items, recreation marketing exists to sell experiences. As you can imagine, convincing a customer to purchase a skydiving trip is a lot different than convincing them to buy a t-shirt with an airplane on it. Recreational activities are about learning new skills, making memories with your family, or relaxing after a stressful work week. Selling concepts like these comes with some unique challenges."

How does one capture an "experience"? It is with feelings, emotions. These are not tangible in nature, but it is what people feel when they visit a Monee Park, or participate in a Monee Recreation Program.

To communicate these valuable, fun, exciting, eventful, athletic emotions and feelings one uses a variety of "tools of the trade" in marketing:

- Advertising
- Promotion
- Social Media
- Public Input and Involvement

Has the Village of Monee Parks & Recreation Department allocated sufficient resources to use these tools to communicate to its residents?

Branding

Harold J. Nolan, Jr. wrote in the National Recreation and Park Association magazine:

"The positive perception of any recreation, park and tourism organization is both a desired and required goal. In reaching this goal for such leisure-based services, the process is based in part on a positive branding image. In today's environment, without a strong and positive brand image, bad things may happen. If you are a manager of a public recreation, park and tourism agency, you may have had these types of situations happen to you or observed them in surrounding communities:

- *An increase in competition from other public- and private-sector providers has begun to erode your services*
- *Your community's parks division has merged with public works or another municipal department*
- *Both the operating and capital budgets have been reduced at a greater rate than other departments within a community*

If these and other situations related to a loss of status are occurring within your organization, it may be that your agency's brand is weak."

So what does "BRANDING" involve?

First, the Village of Monee should make a commitment to include parks and recreation as a priority along with fire, police, streets, sanitation, water, public works and other services.

Second, Monee Parks & Recreation should decide what emotions, feelings and experiences it believes are most important to its residents. Are you:

- A place to come to relax?
- Fun, Sun, and Run?
- Learning, Growing, Enjoying?

This will require Monee Parks & Recreation to "capture" the mood/feeling/emotion it wishes to PERMEATE all its MARKETING (see, above, for information regarding marketing).

Then, "Branding" will take that emotion/feeling/mood and translate it and use it in every marketing method it uses—all to cultivate a certain image in the minds of Monee Residents and the Customers of Monee Parks & Recreation. You don't need to hire a marketing firm to do this, but you must be creative, factor in the character of Monee—both physically and of its residents—and be sure that whatever this mood/emotion/feeling might be that when you conduct the steps below you hold true to it in everything you do:

- Choosing a name
- Designing a logo, tag lines
- Using colors, shapes, and other visual elements in its social media, services and promotions
- Crafting the language in its advertisements
- Training your employees to interact with customers

Third, the Monee Parks & Recreation Department should decide who its customers are. None of the process involved in creating a unique name and image for Monee's Recreation and Parks "product" in the consumers' mind, through branding or advertising will work without knowing who your customers are. Branding aims to establish a significant and differentiated presence in the market that attracts and retains loyal customers.

The Village of Monee should understand that your primary customers are your residents within Village boundaries who pay taxes to support your facilities, staff, and programs.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, The Village of Monee should be heartened to learn that only 16% of its residents indicated they were going to other communities for their recreation programming—not as significant as many of the Staff and Trustees had thought when they spoke to us.

Nonetheless, it is essential that Monee Parks & Recreation begin to realize that customers from "other places", will come to you if you BRAND and MARKET your product correctly.

- A customer is willing to drive up to 5 miles, without hesitation to get a product or service they want.
- If a product or service earns a reputation or "image", a customer will drive up to 10 miles without hesitation.

It is recommended that the Monee Parks & Recreation Department:

1. Reach out to its residents more frequently and clearly.
2. Develop a stronger BRAND.
3. Commit greater resources to its Marketing "TOOLS of the TRADE".
4. Reach beyond its Village Borders for customers.
5. Make people from the 5 and 10 mile radius come to Monee to use Recreation Programming and its Parks.

04

Vision

Precursor

As briefly addressed in Section 2.4, the Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department knows its mission. It needs to define its VISION with an eye toward the future.

As the Village has grown and evolved, so should the Monee Parks and Recreation Department.

The Village has its mission, but it needs a **VISION**.

The analysis provided in Chapters 2 & 3 is leading the community to a new phase in its provision of parks and recreation services. Just as the Village is in the process of completing its ***2021 Comprehensive Plan*** to "guide future development in Monee for the next 15 to 20 years……", so, too, must Monee Parks & Recreation be prepared to move forward.

If Monee wants Parks and Recreation to be prepared to move along with its ***2021 Comprehensive Plan*** it should adopt a VISION that accomplishes what a VISION sets out to do. Remember, Harvard Business Review defines a vision statement as "what the organization wishes to be like in some years time". In the case of this Plan Document, the next five years. Without VISION, Monee Parks & Recreation will remain where it is today.

Farnworth Group suggests that the time is now for a VISION to go along with its existing MISSION.

We provide the previous Chapter 2 and 3 analysis and assessment as a "guide" to a possible vision statement.

We recommend:

VISION STATEMENT

The Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department will seek to evolve to a more balanced department managing both its parks and recreation services under "one roof", growing its recreation programming, improving its existing parks, developing its unused open space, while managing its resources wisely.

To achieve this VISION, we provide in the next two sections the core, specific details of this Plan.

Recommendations

In section 2.4 there were some GOALS presented as part of the analysis of existing condition. Those current goals are stated as:

1. Advance the reputation and image of the Village.
2. Be responsive to the recreational needs of all individuals.
3. Build relationships.
4. Create a positive climate.
5. Encourage community partnerships.
6. Promote the wise use of leisure time and generally enhance a strong sense of community.
7. Sustain giving programs.

Now, with a new VISION for the next five years, it is essential for Monee Parks & Recreation to set new GOALS. The Director of Parks & Recreation was charged by Farnsworth Group to define some of those GOALS. TEN were identified by the Director —five for Parks and Facilities and five for Recreation. The Director of Parks and Recreation began to write OBJECTIVES and ACTION STATEMENT to accomplish these recommended GOALS over the next five years. The Village Administrator and Trustees should review, provide input towards, and approve these GOALS, OBJECTIVES and ACTION STATEMENTS no later than March 2021.

We recommend that the Trustees adopt these ten GOALS as part of the Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

PARKS

Goal 1: Make improvements to the football field and large baseball field at Firemen's Park to resolve drainage and other playability issues for the football field and large baseball field.

Objective A: To apply for matching funding via the OSLAD Grant FY22 in 2021.

Action Statement 1: The Director of Parks & Recreation should meet and discuss the standings of the grant and updated information needed starting in August 2021.
Action Statement 2: First rough draft should be completed by October 2021.
Action Statement 3: A revision should be completed by December 2021.
Action Statement4: The first review should be conducted by the board by January 2022.
Action Statement 5: The final version should be presented for the Board approval by February 2022.

Objective B: The Director of Parks & Recreation should budget for the matching monies that are required for this matching grant.

PARKS

Goal 2: Build new centrally located concessions building at Firemen's Park to include functional and accessible public restrooms to address lack of public restroom facilities identified for this community park.

Objective A: The Parks & Recreation Director and the Village Administrator should interview with the board approved grant consulting firm to discuss plans and proposal of plans that are needed and required for to apply for the PARC Grant and any other grants.

Objective B: To apply for funding via the PARC Grant FY22 in 2021.

Action Statement 1: The Director of Parks & Recreation should meet and discuss the standings of the grant and updated information needed starting in August 2021.
Action Statement 2: First rough draft should be completed by September 2021.
Action Statement 3: The first review should be conducted by the board by beginning October 2021.
Action Statement 4: A revision should be completed by end of October 2021.
Action Statement 5: The final version should be presented for the Board approval by December 2021.

Objective C: The Director of Parks & Recreation should budget for the associatd grant administration fees and 25% monies of overall project cost that are required for this grant.

Goal 3: Conduct a thorough ADA Compliance analysis at all Parks and Facilities which concludes with a "Transition Plan."

Objective A: The Parks & Recreation Director should create a matrix of all parks and facilities to be evaluated and enlist services of a consulting firm to evaluate these spaces for compliance with current ADA codes and guidelines.

Objective B: The Parks & Recreation Director should evaluate the final ADA compliance report and Opinion of Probable Costs provided by the consulting firm and prioritize and schedule improvements to be outlined in a Transition Plan that aligns with available funding.

PARKS

Goal 4: Seek to improve and add recreational amenities within existing Village parks and open spaces at appropriate locations, i.e walking paths, play equipment, landscaping, sport courts, etc.

Objective A: The Parks & Recreation Director should meet with the Village Administrator to discuss improvement needs of existing Village parks.
Objective B: The Parks & Recreation Director should meet with the Village Administrator to discuss open spaces and additional land the Village has marked for potential parks.
Objective C: The Village of Monee Board should adopt an Open Space Ordinance to reflect an appropriate standard for how much acreage the Village will set aside per 1,000 residents.
Objective D: The Parks & Recreation Director should budget for yearly additions and or improvements in accordance with a schedule of yearly additions or improvements.
Action Statement 1: The Village of Monee should approve this money needed during its fiscal budgeting process and approve of said budget.

Goal 5: Seek to acquire more land/buildings for expanding the Parks & Recreation Department.

Objective A: The Village of Monee Board should revise their Land/Cash Ordinance to reflect an appropriate standard of acreage and/or funds in lieu of required to be given to the Village upon development.
Objective B: The Director of Parks & Recreation, the Village Administrator, and the designated Parks & Recreation Trustee should meet on a quarterly basis to discuss any information on possible acquisitions for land/buildings that may arise as a result of information that is collected.

RECREATION

Goal 6: Seek to expand affiliation and partnerships with area colleges, forest preserve and other municipals/park districts in the area to expand programming and avoid duplication of services.

Objective A: The Director of Parks & Recreation should continue to keep up communications with these partnerships quarterly.

Action Statement 1: Through these partnerships you can connect with local college sports program and collaborate with them about camps for the community to connect not only the Village of Monee but to better connect the residents to services offered and make known the relationship between the Village of Monee and said connections with these organizations/resources.

Goal 7: Improve the existing use of area schools and improve the IGA to allow for additional space to provide recreation.

Objective A: The Director of Parks & Recreation should meet with CMSD #201U Superintendent on semi-annual occasion to discuss the possibilities that could be available to the Village of Monee for recreation purposes.

Action Statement 1: The use of the school's facilities can help expand the programs that are offered to residents for sports programs such as basketball and volleyball programs through the use of IGA that the Director of Parks and Recreation will develop with the CMSD #201U.

Action Statement 2: The IGAs that are developed need to be presented and approved by both the Village of Monee Board and the CMSD #201U Boards.

Goal 8: Broaden the awareness, recognition and image of the Village of Monee Parks & Recreation Department using: Online registration, Stand-alone Brochure, Website and Facebook presence.

Objective A: The Director of Parks & Recreation should get 3 bids from program developers to be installed and utilized.
Objective B: The bids should be presented to the Village of Monee and voted upon.
Objective C: The Director of Parks and Recreation should budget accordingly.
Objective D: All Parks and Recreation staff should be trained on this new software.

RECREATION

Goal 9: "Grow" recreation programming so that the department can financially afford to hire more program staff, so that the Parks and Recreation Director can shift some focus towards parks issues more regularly resulting in balanced efforts in both areas.

Objective A: Recreation staff should be hired to help plan and work programs the community wishes to see more of.
Objective B: Survey after each program what the participants liked or didn't like to continue to improve programming.

Goal 10: Continue to take on more youth programs and develop more sports programs, in general, to utilize the land and amenities available to the Village, and as improved at Firemen's Park.

Objective A: The Director of Parks and Recreation should stay in contact with the Monee Mavericks Football Team quarterly and continue to offer to house them under the Village of Monee.
Objective B: The Director of Parks and Recreation should continue to survey the public on their interests in various sports.
Action Statement 1: By keeping up with the interests and trends in the area could open the doors for possible sports programs such as Lacrosse, soccer, etc. seasonal programs.

Additional Goals

In addition, Farnsworth Group recommends these additional goals for the next five years:

Parks and Facilities

A. Update Land/Cash Ordinance to refelct an appropriate standard of acreage and/or funds in lieu of land required to be given to the Village upon new development.
B. Park Category System shall be adopted by the Village that identifies hierarchy of park types, their definitions, size perameters, and purposes
C. Transition management of parks maintenance and oversight to Director of Parks and Recreation---OR remove that responsibility from the job description.
D. Identify potential pedestrian/bicycle routes to connect parks and open space within the Village, as well as potential for regional connections.
E. Have existing park facilities/buildings retro-commissioned to identify problems that might need to be addressed based on age, equpiment type, and building usage.

Recreation

A. Narrow the focus of Activity Type offered in recreation programs.
B. Establish a defined group of Ages that the department will focus its programming towards.
C. Limit the addition of new Special Events.
D. Focus on quality and not quantity of programs.
E. Create a "Brand" for the Monee Parks & Recreation Department.
F. Reach out to its residents more frequently and clearly.
G. Commit greater resources to its Marketing "TOOLS of the TRADE".
H. Reach beyond Village borders for customers. Make people from the 5 and 10 mile radius come to Monee to use Recreation Programming.
I. Develop a Trustee Approved Pricing/Fee Philosophy
J. Develop a Trustee Approved Delineation of:
    - What Portion of the Village Budget will be Allocated to Parks & Recreation
    - What Portion of the Parks & Recreation Budget must be Supported by Program Fees and Charges
    - What Portion of Program Fees will Contribute to Overhead Costs
K. Create a well-defined fee structure for use of:
    - Ball Diamonds
    - Sports Fields
    - Pavilions/Shelters
    - Score Boxes/Concessions
    - Bathrooms
    - Buildings/Classrooms
L. Define which user groups pay more, or less for the various use fees above
M. Establish a clear budget tool to determine the cost of each program
N. Conduct a Niche or Gap Assessment as defined in Section 3.2

The goal of Capital Prioritization is to identify possible projects, which align with our recommendations and goals stated earlier in this chapter, then prioritize decisions for investing in and developing these projects. The prioritization of these projects is again only a recommendation and the Parks and Recreation Director along with the Village Administrator may at any time decide to rearrange their priority to implement specific projects sooner, or postpone others based on community need, recreation trends, and funding opportunities. Based off of community and stakeholder input gathered throughout the plan process, we understand that the desires and needs of Monee residents are greater than the current funding resources available. Therefore, it is important that Master Plans be developed for each park and construction budgets determined.

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
FIREMEN'S PARK	REPLACE PAVILION	1	X				
	FOOTBALL FIELD GRADING AND DRAINAGE	1	X				
	BASEBALL DIAMOND RECONFIGURATION WITH DUGOUTS, BLEACHERS, AND BATTING CAGES	1		X			
	CONCESSIONS / RESTROOM BUILDING	1	X				
	ADA COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS	1	X				
	PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS	1		X			
	FOOTBALL FIELD LIGHTING	2		X			
	DEMOLITION OF SOFTBALL FIELD, GRADING AND TURF SEED	2		X			
	RELOCATE AND REPLACE PLAYGROUND	2			X		
	ANALYZE AND RE-STRIPE PARKING LOT	2		X			
	DEMOLITION OF STORAGE GARAGE	3			X		
	NEW PARK SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING	3			X		
	RE-PURPOSE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING FOR RECREATION	3			X		
	PICNIC SHELTER (1)	3				X	
	DETENTION POND	3				X	
	SHADE TREES	3				X	
	REMOVE SECTION OF EASTGATE AVE., GRADING AND TURF SEED	4				X	
	EXPAND PARKING LOT	4					X
	DEMOLITION OF SALT STORAGE BUILDING	4					X
	REPURPOSE VILLAGE HALL BUILDING FOR RECREATION	4					X
	ADDITION OF SPORT COURT NORTH OF FOOTBALL FIELD (VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, OR TENNIS/PICKLEBALL)	4					X
	PICNIC SHELTER (2)	4					X
	FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR RECREATION BUILDING EXPANSION	4					X

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
FRIENDSHIP PARK	CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION	1	X				
	RELOCATE PICNIC TABLE FROM SAFETY ZONE	1	X				
	ADA COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS	1	X				
	REPLACE PEA GRAVEL WITH EWF PLAY SURFACING	2		X			
	FENCE REPAIR	2		X			
	UPDATE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	3			X		
	ADD PARK AMENITY IN OPEN SPACE	3			X		
	NEW PARK SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING	4				X	
	SHADE TREES AND LANDSCAPING	4					X

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
POTAWATOMI PARK	CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION	1	X				
	ADA COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS	1	X				
	PLAYGROUND	1	X				
	REPLACE PEA GRAVEL WITH EWF PLAY SURFACING	2		X			
	UPDATE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	3			X		
	ADD PARK AMENITY IN OPEN SPACE	4			X		
	NEW PARK SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING	4				X	
	SHADE TREES AND LANDSCAPING	4					X

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
SUNRISE PARK	CERTIFIED PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION	1	X				
	ADA COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS	1	X				
	RELOCATE PICNIC TABLE FROM SAFETY ZONE	1	X				
	PROVIDE PAVED ACCESS TO PLAYGROUND	2		X			
	REMOVE EVERGREEN TREES	2		X			
	REPLACE PEA GRAVEL WITH EWF PLAY SURFACING	2		X			
	FIX DRAINAGE ISSUE AT NW CORNER OF PLAYGROUND	3			X		
	UPDATE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	3			X		
	NEW PARK SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING	4				X	

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
GORMAN FARM OPEN SPACE	NEW PARK SIGNAGE	2		X			
	CREATE A PEDESTRIAN WALKING LOOP	3			X		
	EVALUATE EXISTING VEGETATION AND MITIGATE INVASIVE SPECIES	4					X
	NATIVE SHADE TREES AND SHRUBS	4					X
	EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE ABOUT NATIVE PLANTINGS/HABITAT/WILDLIFE	4					X

PARK	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
EAGLE FAIR OPEN SPACE	NEW PARK SIGNAGE AND LANDSCAPING	2		X			
	ADD PARK AMENITY THAT DIFFERS FROM SUNRISE PARK	3				X	
	ADD PLAY EQUIPMENT	4				X	

LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2030
VILLAGE OF MONEE	COMMUNITY-WIDE PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAIL STUDY	3			X		
VILLAGE OF MONEE	LAND ACQUISITIONS FOR NEW PARK WEST OF I-57 & NORTH OF BRUNS WITHIN VILLAGE BOUNDARIES	4					X

05

Implementation Strategies

The Village of Monee's financial health plays a vital role in what the Parks and Recreation Department can be expected to accomplish in terms of providing and maintaining parks and providing and increasing recreational opportunities that the community expects of them. The FY21 operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department totals $258,671.30, less than 2% of the Village's overall operating budget. According to the 2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review, median annual operating expenditures per person for agencies with populations less than 20,000 is $96.77 per person (lower quartile is $56.34). The Village of Monee Parks and Recreation Department currently spends approximately $50.89 per person. This average per person dollar amount is calculated accurately for the budget amount indicated, but upon our review we found several Parks and Recreation line items for recreation facilities, park maintenance and park improvements listed under the Buildings & Grounds Operating Budget. It is our recommendation that a thorough review be completed and ALL parks and recreation items be included under a single "Parks & Recreation Department" budget for FY22. It should also be evaluated how the funds are being allocated within the overall budget. Average percentage distribution of operating expenditures to strive for would be 44% going to management and maintenance of parks/open space and 43% going to recreation and programming and the facilities for these activities with the remaining 13% going to other.

For the recommendations and goals outlined in this plan to be realized, it is recommended that the Village make additional financial commitments and allocations to the Parks and Recreation Department over the next five years. It is equally important that sources other than general fund tax support be contributing to the Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget. On average, park and recreation agencies get three-fifths of their funding from general fund tax support with the remaining sources coming from a combination of:

- 24% Earned Revenue
- 8% Dedicated Levies
- 3% Other Dedicated Taxes
- 2% Grants
- 1% Sponsorships
- 2% Other

Funding Opportunities:

Grants

There are several types of grants that can be applied for that could assist in funding various project types. Grant applications may require a Comprehensive Plan such as this, park master plans, and or scope of work and fee proposals. The following are some of the options Monee may seek to consider:

Federal Grants

- Community Development Block Grant Program (DCBG): Administered by Will County, these federal monies are allocated by HUD for low- & moderate-income communities to pay for public infrastructure.
- Surface Transportation Program (STP): These federal funds are administered by IDOT and managed and allocated by the Will County Governmental League and CMAP. Designed primarily for roads, these funds can be used for multi-use paths along designated FAU Routes.
- Federal Trail Program (FTP): Administered by the US Department of Transportation, this grant is designed for off-road trails for motorized and non-motorized off-road vehicles.

State Grants

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space and Land Acquisitions Development Grant (OSLAD); This program is targeted specifically to parks and open space projects that fund outdoor recreation improvements and land acquisition for park space.
- IDNR Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant (PARC); This grant program is targeted to indoor recreation facilities that serve the public.
- Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP): administered by IDOT, this federally funded grant is designed to enhance transportation options including off-road multi-use paths.
- Illinois Bicycle Path Program: An IDNR grant program targeted to municipalities to fund off-road bicycle paths & trails.
- Rebuild Illinois Public Infrastructure Grants: As a part of the $45 billion Capital Plan initiated in 2019, Illinois will provide grant funds through the Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO) for public infrastructure improvements for parks and recreational facility construction. These funds will be allocated through FY 2025.

Financing

One avenue that many municipalities with parks & recreation departments utilize to fund improvements to facilities, existing parks and open space and park land acquisition is bond financing, such as through General Obligation (GO) Bonds. These provide long-term financing to improve capital investments that serve the public and enhance community development.

Legislative Prerogatives

From time to time, State and federal legislators can assist a municipal government in acquiring funding through special prerogative funds. In 2019, this was a significant part of the Rebuild Illinois Plan, and several park projects were funded by monies set aside for each legislator for their districts. We would highly recommend that the Village reach out to their State Representatives and Senators to assist and support Monee's efforts to improve their park space.

Partnership Opportunities

Partnering with local and regional organizations can give the Monee Parks and Recreation Department the ability to leverage unique working opportunities to the benefit of both parties and its residents. There are three basic categories of partnerships that should be sought: intergovernmental, affiliate, and corporate.

Intergovernmental Partnership

Potential intergovernmental partnerships for Monee Parks and Recreation Department to seek and cultivate are:

- Crete-Monee School District 201U to allow for shared indoor recreation space for basketball, volleyball and more
- Forest Preserve District of Will County, use of Raccoon Grove Nature Preserve and Monee Reservoir to allow for additional outdoor, nature-based programming opportunities and also development and implementation of shared programs at these locations
- Governors State University

Affiliate Partnership

Affiliate partnerships typically occur with community-based organizations such as churches, sports clubs and private interest groups. While these affiliate partners may be self-benefitting and difficult to maintain relationships with due to changing leadership, they can also provide important opportunities for Parks and Recreation. The groups again might have indoor recreation space to share, but specific interest groups and sports clubs can often times offer advanced programs to build off of beginner classes offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Such organizations in Monee that the Parks and Recreation Department already has formed partnerships with are:

- Monee Alliance of Churches
- Fitness Premier Monee
- Monee Historical Society
- Maverick Youth Football and Cheer
- Challenger Sports (Soccer Camp)
- Monee Chamber of Commerce
- Monee American Legion
- Wil-Kan and Kan-Wil Baseball and Softball League

Corporate Partnership

Securing corporate partnerships should become a focus for the Parks and Recreation Department towards building a successful financial future. We recommend the development of a third party 501(c)(3) Park Foundation that can fundraise and accept private donations, that are tax deductible to the extent the law allows, to support and improve various parks and recreation activities as best determined by those overseeing it. While the Parks and Recreation Department might benefit through monetary donations, purchase of equipment, and team sponsorships, the corporate

partners benefit through brand exposure and high level visibility to the users and program spectators. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department receives funds from corporate partners as individual/event-based sponsors. To realize additional benefits, these types of partnerships need to be a multi-year commitment and developed based on a predetermined tier system that clearly defines expectations and responsibilities of both parties. For example, a sponsorship program might be developed with three tiers named “Gold”, “Silver”, and “Bronze” where the largest committment made by both parties would start with “Gold” and taper down with “Silver” and even further still where “Bronze” would be the lowest commitment made. The corporate partners could be presented a “menu” of annual events and programs to choose from that could further tailor their benefits by reaching a target market group specific to their needs, or an event theme that aligns with their business.

Existing Corporate Partnerships that should continue to be cultivated are:

- Riverside Medical Group
- First Midwest Bank
- Gracie’s Lucky Burrito
- Dr. Therese Bogs
- Attorney Gryczewski
- McDonald’s
- Rainbow Farms
- Animal Wellness Center of Monee
- Better Built Lumber
- Robinson Engineering Ltd.
- M&J Underground Inc.
- New Life Physical Therapy
- Ozinga Brothers Inc.
- Bimba Manufacturing
- Iroquois Paving Company
- 7-11

The overall success of this Comprehensive Plan lies with the Village and the Parks and Recreation Department's desire to execute it. This plan was developed to be implemented over the course of five years, but the individual goals and objectives outlined herein shall be reviewed annually. The Village Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Director should give consideration to the development of a Park Commission to assist in these reviews. This committee would be comprised of Monee citizen volunteers and duties would be advisory in nature only, to review items of importance to the Parks and Recreation Department under the guidance of the Parks and Recreation Director, and then to make recommendations regarding these issues to the Village Trustees. In 2025, the Village Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Director should prepare to update this Comprehensive Plan and engage the community and stakeholders in planning for the next five years, and beyond.

06

Appendices

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau
Assessing the Effect of Parks on Surrounding Property Values Using Hedonic Models and Multilevel Models – NRPA
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https://recmanagement.com/rec-report-feature/202005-4
https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf

06 Appendices /

Documents:

Monee General Popul;ation Survey Data Report by Public Research Group

Programming Evaluation Cube Raw Data and Analysis Spreadsheets

2020 General Population Parks & Recreation Survey Report

September 2020

PUBLIC RESEARCH GROUP

www.publicresearchgroup.com

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2020 General Population Parks & Recreation Survey Village of Monee

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Public Research Group conducted a Parks & Recreation Survey for the Village of Monee Parks & Recreation Department in the summer of 2020. The survey sample covered all Village of Monee residents via a postcard that was mailed out in early June 2020 informing residents to complete the survey on-line. Public Research Group has compiled 179 on-line surveys. The sample of 179 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 7.2% at a 95% confidence level. This information should be valuable to review and develop an understanding of the survey information that has been collected in relation to the master planning process.

Major Survey Findings

The survey contained a series of questions that were designed to measure behavior as well as perceptions by residents surrounding mostly parks & facilities, but also included recreation and administration. Furthermore, there were several opportunities for participants to provide specific comments from "open end" questions.

- How likely would you be to recommend the Department to a friend or family member?

This is a measure of customer satisfaction and loyalty to the Village Parks & Recreation Department. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) system was used with NPS scores are measured with a single question survey and reported with a number from -100 to +100, a higher score is desirable. Given the NPS range of -100 to +100, a "positive" score or NPS above 0 is considered "Good", +50 is "Excellent, and above 70 is considered "World Class." Based on global NPS standards, any score above 0 would be considered "good." The Parks & Recreation Department had a score of -51, which is considered a poor score with much work to be done in the future to raise this score.

- Participation in Programs

Nearly half of respondents and their families have not participated in organized recreation programs held by the agency last year. This is possibly due to the Village Parks & Recreation Department does not offer programs for their age groups, which there is a demand for more programs for young children and adults. When asked about new or additional programs, the numerous responses collected from the survey respondents varied but several repeating themes included wanting more active activities, including sports like basketball, gymnastics, dance, yoga, and swimming. Along with active activities, there were common social activities included STEM programs, art and cooking classes, and events including wine tasting and tabletop gaming.

- Do you feel that the Village of Monee should continue to invest in the parks and recreational programming?

There is strong support for the Village to continue the investment into the parks and programming for the overall benefit of the local community. In comparison of data generated from related questions in this survey in terms of quality of life, satisfaction and the open-ended responses, there is a strong correlation between the effort given in time, resources and overall commitment by the Village that many in the community do not believe that parks and recreation has received the proper attention it has been in the recent past.

- How often do you visit a park in Monee?

A majority of respondents have visited a park in Monee 7 or more times last year. This shows that the parks are often used and enjoyed by the residents.

- If the Parks & Recreation Department would consider improvements at Firemen's Park, what park features that would be most important to you and your family?

The top three park features that are important to respondents to add or improve at Fireman's Park were the football field, playground equipment and concessions building.

- Do you or members of your household use any outside agencies for parks, facilities, recreation programs and/or services?

Respondents and their households take part in numerous outside parks and facilities, recreation programs and services. This includes visiting forest preserves, neighboring Park Districts, and the library. The open-ended responses included sporting events, daycares, Leo Hassett Community Center in Manteno and other town's basketball and volleyball courts.

- If you or members of your household use outside agencies, what are the reasons?

Respondents go to outside agencies instead of Monee Park and Recreation due to programs their interest in not being available through the village. These outside agencies provided better programs, were closer to home, provided outdoor recreation and were better organized.

- In thinking overall about parks and recreation in the Village of Monee, please rate each of the following priorities which would be important to you and your household.

The respondents favored expanding recreational programs, expanding opportunities for more community special events and building more pathways as a high priority. Just keeping everything the way it is now scored low for future priorities.

Major Survey Takeaways

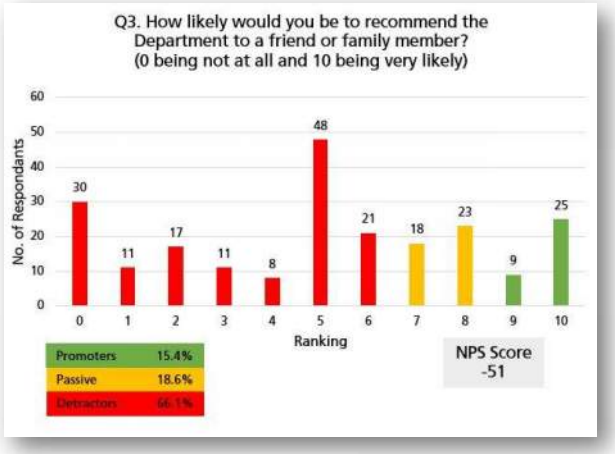
- Parks & Recreation Department has not reached its full potential in meeting the expectations from the local community.
- Park spaces seem very basic and do not generate much excitement for the average resident.
- The parks are used frequently with Fireman's Park being the most visited.
- Residents would like to see an investment made into the parks with an expansion of recreation services offered.

Introduction

Public Research Group conducted a Parks & Recreation Survey for the Village of Monee Parks & Recreation Department in the summer of 2020. The survey sample covered all Village of Monee residents via a postcard mailed out in early June 2020 informing residents to complete the survey on-line. Public Research Group compiled 179 on-line surveys. The sample of 179 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 7.2% at a 95% confidence level. This information should be valuable to review and develop an understanding of the survey information that has been collected in relation to the planning process. The survey questions illustrated in this report are not in the same sequence as the survey document as the questions have been arranged by essential parks and recreation topic areas.

Administration

Q3: How likely would you be to recommend the Department to a friend or family member?

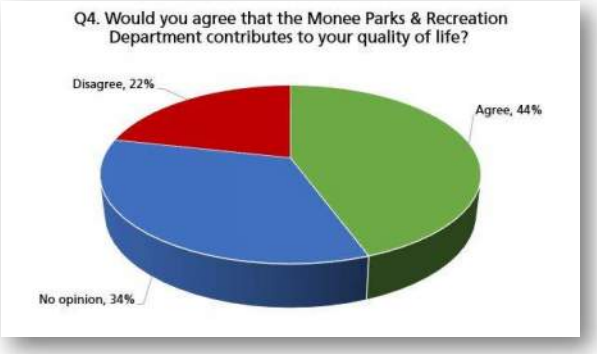


Conclusion: This is a measure of customer satisfaction and loyalty to the Village Parks & Recreation Department. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) system was used with NPS scores are measured with a single question survey and reported with a number from -100 to +100, a higher score is desirable. Given the NPS range of -100 to +100, a "positive" score or NPS above 0 is considered "Good", +50 is "Excellent, and above 70 is considered "World Class." Based on global NPS standards, any score above 0 would be considered "good." The Parks & Recreation Department had a score of -51, which is considered a poor score with much work to be done in the future to raise this score.

Q3a: What is the most important reason for your score?

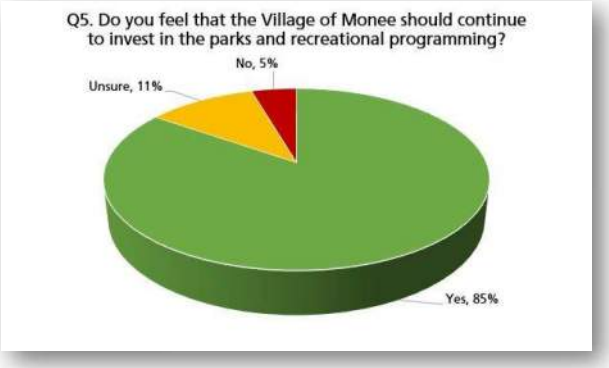
Conclusion: The open-ended responses were centered on not knowing what is available, a lack of variety in the programming, not many programs or activities for non-children households and a lack of special events.

Q4: Would you agree that the Monee Parks & Recreation Department contributes to your quality of life?



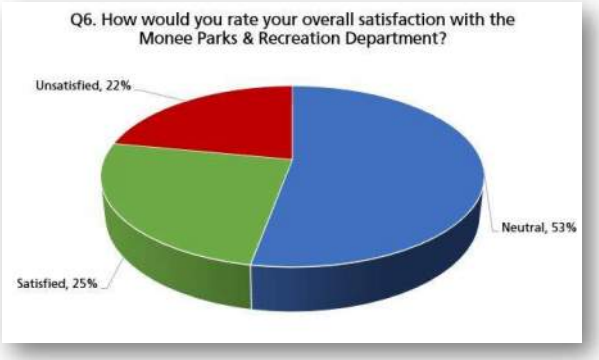
Conclusion: The percentage (44%) that agrees is relatively low as a comparative to completed surveys over the past few years. The typical response is around 70% that would agree that the agency contributes to the respondent's quality of life.

Q5: Do you feel that the Village of Monee should continue to invest in the parks and recreational programming?



Conclusion: There is strong support for the Village to continue the investment into the parks and programming for the overall benefit of the local community. In comparison of data generated from related questions in this survey in terms of quality of life, satisfaction and the open-ended responses, there is a strong correlation between the effort given in time, resources and overall commitment by the Village that many in the community do not believe that parks and recreation has received the proper attention it has been in the recent past.

Q6: How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the Monee Parks & Recreation Department?

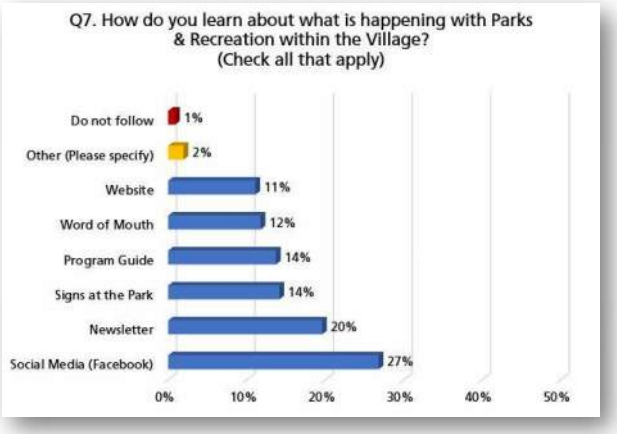


Conclusion: The percentage (25%) of respondents that were satisfied is low as a comparative to completed surveys over the past few years. The typical response is around 40% that would rate past experiences with the agency as satisfying.

Q6a: If you answered Unsatisfied above, please tell us why? (Please be as specific as possible)

Conclusion: The open-ended responses were centered on canceled programs, no significant capital improvements for the past few years, a lack of bike trails, grocery stores and teen and adult programming.

Q7: How do you learn about what is happening with Parks & Recreation within the Village? (Check all that apply)



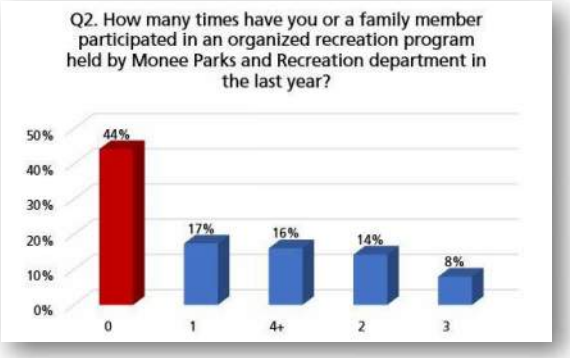
Conclusion: Most respondents received their information on what is happening through Social Media like Facebook, newsletters/program guides and signs displayed in the parks. The open-ended responses included newsletters published by the Village and through word of mouth with Village staff.

Q23: Please make any additional comments that you think would be helpful for the staff to hear about.

Conclusion: The responses were centered more coherent communication, a new dog park, updating the parks, more organized sports, more programs for teens and seniors, new walking/biking trails and more special events.

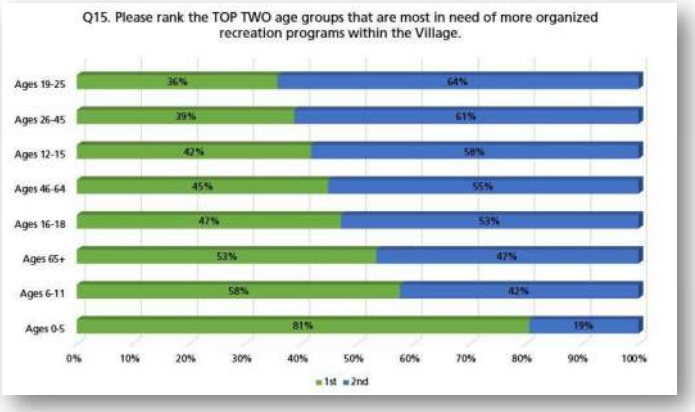
Recreation

Q2: How many times have you or a family member participated in an organized recreation program held by Monee Parks and Recreation department in the last year?



Conclusion: Nearly half of the survey respondents and their families have not participated in an organized recreation program held by the agency this last year.

Q15: Please rank the TOP TWO age groups that are most in need of more organized recreation programs within the Village.



Conclusion: For the first age group, there is a great need for more organized recreation programs for younger children under the age of 5. For the second age group, more organized recreation programs for youth between the ages of 6-11.

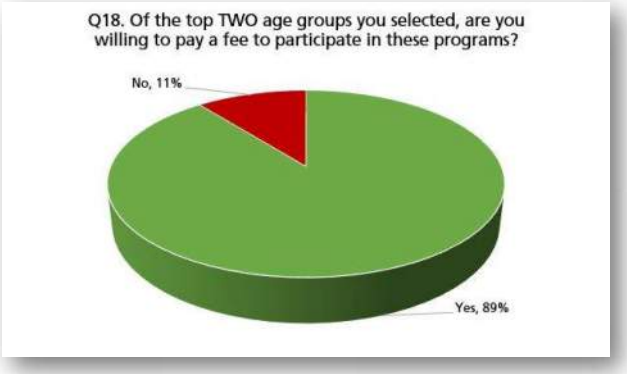
Q16: Of the FIRST age group you selected, please tell us the types of programs you would be most interested in (i.e. sports, arts, gymnastics, dance, yoga, etc.).

Conclusion: Programs named included STEM programs, sports, arts, dance and swimming.

Q17: Of the SECOND age group you selected, please tell us the types of programs you would be most interested in (i.e. sports, arts, gymnastics, dance, yoga, etc.).

Conclusion: Programs were somewhat similar to the first age group named includes basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, arts, sports, dance and fitness type classes like yoga.

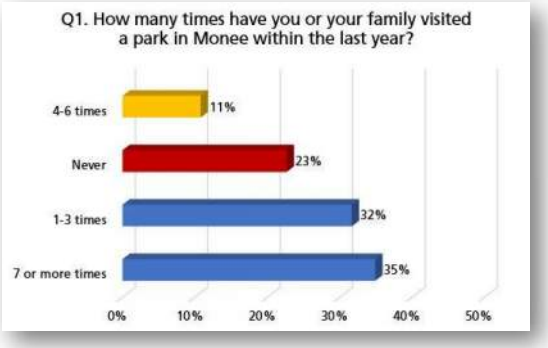
Q18: Of the top TWO age groups you selected, are you willing to pay a fee to participate in these programs?



Conclusion: There is a strong level of support of survey respondents at 89% that are willing to pay a fee to participate in these programs for the age groups they selected.

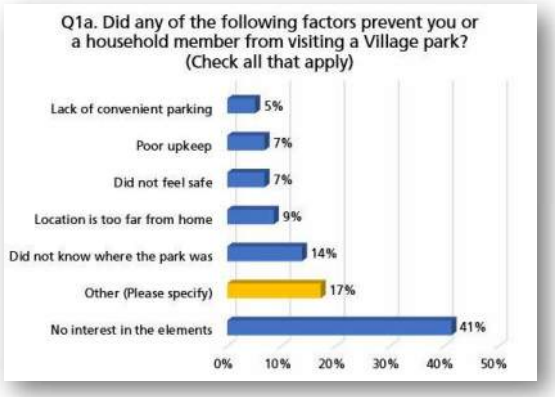
Parks and Facilities

Q1: How many times have you or your family visited a park in Monee within the last year?



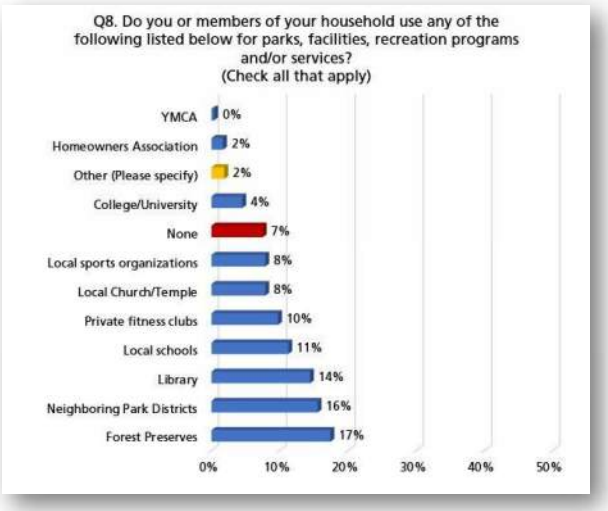
Conclusion: A majority of respndents have visited a park in Monee 7 or more times last year. This shows that the parks are used on a frequent basis.

Q1a: Did any of the following factors prevent you or a household member from visiting a Village park? (Check all that apply)



Conclusion: For those that never visit the parks in Monee, a majority were not interested in the elements at the parks. The open-ended responses were mainly involving not knowing what the parks offered, not being appropriate for very young and old age groups and not being inviting.

Q8: Do you or members of your household use any of the following listed below for parks, facilities, recreation programs and/or services? (Check all that apply)

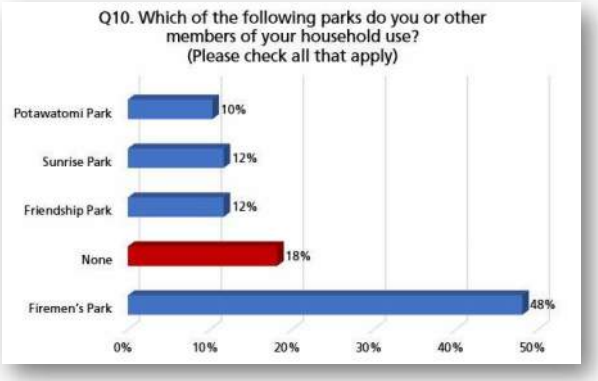


Conclusion: Respondents and their households take part in numerous outside parks and facilities, recreation programs and services. This includes visiting forest preserves, neighboring Park Districts and the library. The open-ended responses included sporting events, daycare centers, the Leo Hassett Community Center in Manteno and other town's basketball and volleyball courts.

Q9: Why do you use them?

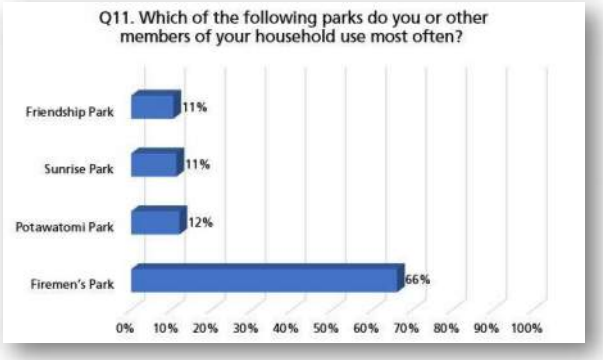
Conclusion: Respondents go to outside agencies instead of the Monee Park and Recreation Department due to programs that their interest in not being available through the village. These outside agencies provided better programs, were closer to home in some instances, provided better passive outdoor recreation and were better organized.

Q10: Which of the following parks do you or other members of your household use? (Please check all that apply)



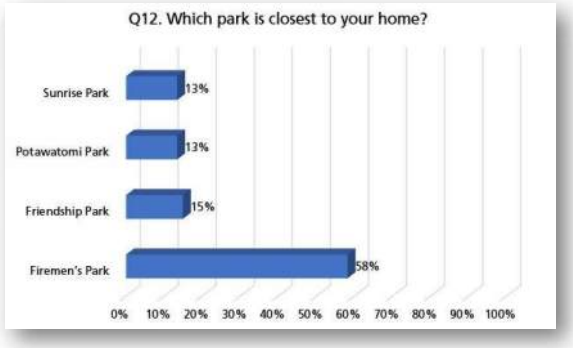
Conclusion: Of the parks in Monee, Firemen's park was the most used park.

Q11: Which of the following parks do you or other members of your household use most often?



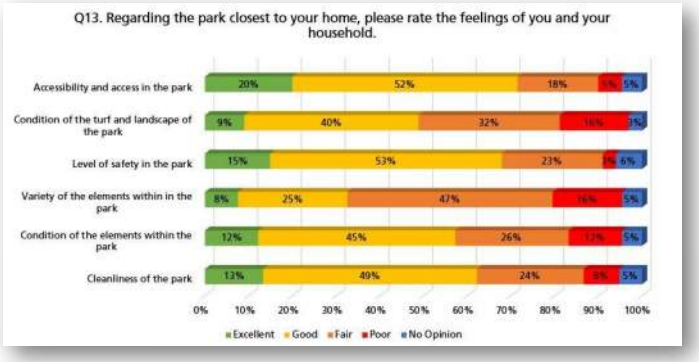
Conclusion: Like the previous question, Fireman's Park is the most often used park in Monee.

Q12: Which park is closest to your home?



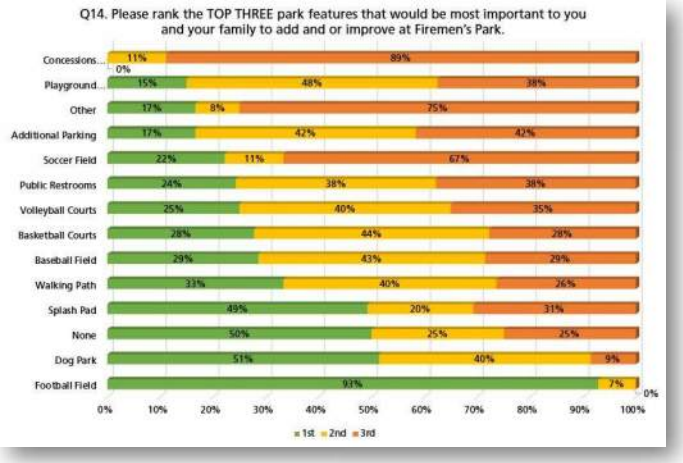
Conclusion: Over half of the survey respondents lived closest to Fireman's Park.

Q13: Regarding the park closest to your home, please rate the feelings of you and your household.



Conclusion: Since Fireman's Park is centrally located within the Village, it can be assumed that it is used the most due to the park being accessible, safe and clean.

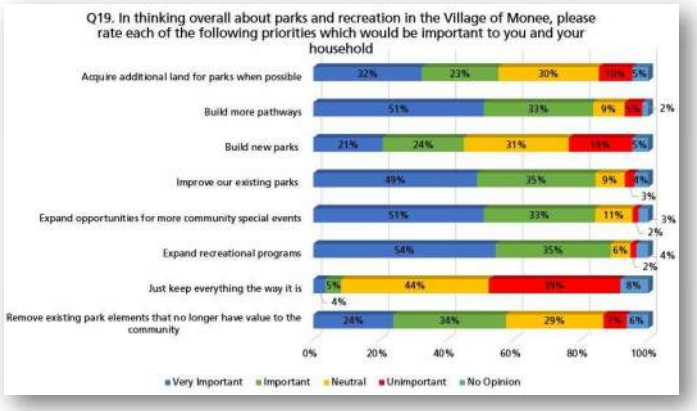
Q14: Please rank the TOP THREE park features that would be most important to you and your family to add or improve at Firemen's Park.



Conclusion: The top three park features that are important to survey respondents to add or improve at Fireman's Park were a football field, playground equipment and a concession building.

Priorities

Q19: In thinking overall about parks and recreation in the Village of Monee, please rate each of the following priorities which would be important to you and your household.



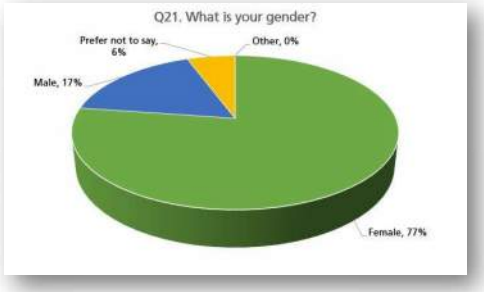
Conclusion: The respondents favored expanding recreational programs, expanding opportunities for more community special events and building more pathways as the highest priorities. In contrast, just keeping everything the way it is scored low for future priorities.

Demographics

Q20: How long have you lived in Monee?

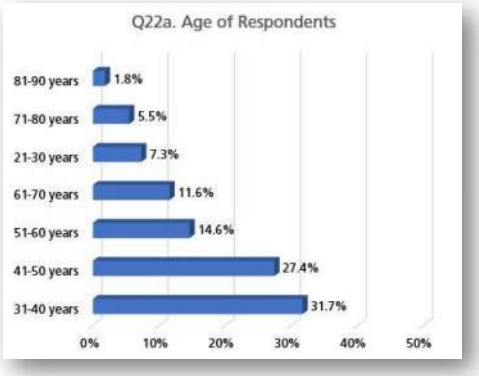
Conclusion: The average residency is 14 years.

Q21: What is your gender?



Conclusion: A majority of survey respondents identified themselves as female, which is common since women are more likely to take part in social science surveys.

Q22: Beginning with yourself, what are the ages of those in your household?



Conclusion: It should be understood that children under the age of 18 do not respond to community surveys. With that being said, the average age of respondents to this survey was 29 years old. Of the households surveyed, 52% had children 18 or younger and 24% of households had active adult/senior citizens.

Conclusion

Overall, the survey data collected and analyzed is very typical of small parks and recreation agencies. It is a challenge to provide a high level of service with limited resources. In review of the survey responses, there is much work to be done to meet future community expectations. The parks seem very average and do not generate much excitement for the average resident unless you have a need to particpate in an orgranized team sport. The feeling of the information collected from the survey seems like the Department has not reached it's potential and has regressed a little as compared to the past. The net promoter score of -51 from Question 3 is very poor as compared to other agencies we have surveyed in which 2/3rds of the respondents would not recommend the Department. This correlates to Question 6 in terms of only 1 out of 4 is satisfied with the Department. Athletic fields, dog park, splash pad and trails are important capital improvements to the community. In the future, residents would like to see an investment made into the parks with an expansion of recreation services offered.

Appendix

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Village of Monee General Population Parks & Recreation Survey Open-Ended Responses

Question 1a –Did any of the following factors prevent you or a household member from visiting a Village park? **(Check all that apply) – Other:**

- Not sure what is available.
- No time work long hours.
- Just moved in.
- We are Seniors and have a hard time walking around.
- If it's the park next to the village. It's not very inviting.
- Nothing that interest us for the kids.
- Not made for toddlers.
- What do they offer?

Question 3a. What is the most important reason for your score? **(Please be as specific as possible)**

- Not sure what is available.
- The programs are rarely of interest to me, even though I have a wide level of interest generally.
- They are geared more for small children or families with small children.
- I don't know what there is to offer.
- Not many programs or sports offered for children.
- I live west of 57- the land that the village of Monee forgot. There is nothing over here. I have a five-year-old that is in daycare (well was) and I always looked for programs for her and wished that there were things we could do together. I was actually contemplating some of the night time classes for myself after my baby was born but then... COVID came.
- The village needs to invest in upgrading its parks for the residents.
- Wish there was more to do for kids.
- We love the activities available.
- The quality of facility could be better.
- Nothing really interests me that you offer.
- Fun atmosphere and activities.
- They weren't enough players for a complete team. Instead of combining levels we were force to forfeit each game.
- Not enough to keep me at the location for a long period of time.
- Needs more variety of play areas. And needs bathrooms.
- Little interest.
- Nothing to do with my interest.
- Some of the events seem thrown together last minute and there aren't many activities for the kids to do.
- For someone with young kids, there's a wide variety of activities.
- We would like to be more involved. We work all week and weekend or evening classes would be great!
- The activities have not changed in years. My kids are no longer excited about them.
- Lack of programs, lack of community posts and information given out, lack of director or board, lack of development in an actual park district with knowledgeable members to promote and provide programs that matter.
- Personally, since the new Director has taken over, the programs have all gone downhill. Nothing has been organized well or planned well and all events from year to year have gotten smaller and gone from a well-planned event to something that feels like it was just thrown together.
- I love Monee and used to attend every event held if possible, but not I feel like the events aren't worth going to anymore. The baseball program last year was a mess and nothing was ready.
- We're married without kids and there are not that many activities offered, unless it's for kids

- We are fairly new residents. We don't know much about the area or our neighbors yet. I don't have much of an opinion either way.
- Parks are great but I registered my kids for the ballet class and was disappointed with the attention the girls were given. I didn't register for anything else after that.
- The worst part is the lack of participation from our community, I hope things begin to grow like when I was a kid. To feel more like a community! We need family events and activities.
- Because they need to do a better job of the football field. Every year you hold the fest on there and tear it up. Those kids that play on it can end up getting hurt because there so much crap left on it or the trucks leave ruts. This town needs the ball parks!! There's nothing in this town for kids. Don't take away from kids but add for them.
- Maverick organization is amazing.
- Love the coach, did not like the program.
- Need more activities.
- Having a local recreation program available to my kids.
- The ball fields are not kept up with even in the off season, but boy that football field is! A lot of reasons which led me to choose 0, but my biggest concern is safety for our children. Fix the fields, fix the holes, fix the fencing, fix it!!! Come on Monee!!
- We like parks. We absolutely love the Mavericks.
- I am unable to comment as nothing has pertained to my family.
- Have never had any experience with department.
- Not a variety of programs for toddlers, my kids are toddlers & that's what I've used the park district for.
- The family-oriented atmosphere.
- I don't have an informed opinion to offer regarding the department as I not had any interaction.
- I am a senior. Nothing much going on for seniors.
- I have no children living at home.
- Lacked of organization.
- Lack of use mainly.
- I feel as though there isn't a lot of gatherings.
- Not enough organized recreation programs for all age groups. Years ago, 22 years, the Fall Faire was better, the Halloween party was better. Things seemed more organized and there was more participation from Monee groups, girl scouts, not scouts, church etc.
- I haven't attended much.
- We don't really interact with the department.
- I have not utilized the parks enough to give a solid answer.
- Nothing scheduled to pique my interest.
- I don't have kids so cannot speak to sports or venues. I take many kids to the parks to play on slides, swings, etc.
- Nothing to offer my family.
- The park is small.
- Need more senior concerts.
- Not many events ate held but the events that are our family always makes it out. My son did little tykes sports and loved it but it came down to only him showing and the whole point was for him to get social interaction with other kids his age.
- There are not enough teen and adult programs available, and if they do have something, it is during the day when I work. Not everyone in Monee is a stay at home parent.
- The department manager (Diana) is outstanding!
- I feel that Monee does not offer much for our family. We are a family of 4 with two boys in their teen and early adult years.
- Not much of interest presented and most are child orientated.

- My friends and family live in areas with much larger events, Monee is a small town and the smaller events are less interesting to them. If I wanted big events in a big town then I'd go to them, I like the smaller
- Monee events because they feel more relaxed and personal.
- Organized events seem to be specialized for the satisfaction of a few.
- Some things are for older people.
- Complete unfamiliarity.
- I went to Fall Fair for the fireworks, that's it. You have nothing going on that appeals to me in any way.
- I have been to Monee reservoir before.
- Not sure if I would or not recommend.
- While the programs offered are nice, I wish there was more diversity in the programs. It seems like the same types of programs are offered repeatedly. Maybe more community input is needed on the types of programs we're looking for. I often find myself taking my children to other communities for programs, when I'd rather be able to stay here on Monee.
- Not really sure what the Department offers.
- There are not many sports activities for adults, especially seniors.
- The parks and programs are good for those who can use them.
- The events held at the Park/Field House on Court Street are all great and a boost to the Community.
- It's difficult to attend many parks and rec courses with my toddler as I work full time. It would be nice to have evening or weekend classes.
- Not a lot to offer.
- Lack of options.
- I have no history so I am not sure.
- They have good offerings.
- At the moment I don't have any small kids to take to the park however, if the park was bright, flowers, up-kept grass and inviting I might be tempted to sit in the park and enjoy the elements.
- Events are not conveniently scheduled for residents to attend. Many programs are during the day when the working residents are not able to attend. I would like to see sidewalks installed on Court street so that we can walk to the parks.
- Not much to do with kids.
- Not enough activities for adults such as Zumba class.
- There is nothing of interest for me.
- Programs change and don't fit seniors as I am a senior.
- Nothing that the Village can offer in comparison to other neighboring towns which we have to travel to utilize their amenities.
- My family lives out of town.
- Consistency of programming. There have been some good offerings, but with limited frequency. Few recurring events.
- Nothing for seniors to do like field trips to plays and concerts.
- Senior citizen.
- The only activity available for middle-aged adults is yoga, and the class is too early for me to attend. I don't get home from work until 7pm.
- I do not use it so why would I recommend. Need a bike path or a track for walking.
- As a very active senior (60), with toddler grandchildren in the area, there is not much for us to participate in.
- Great programs for little ones. Very nice ladies doing them.
- We have the best football program around!!! Go Mavericks!!!
- Doesn't offer much. Playground equipment is dated. Baseball field is not well taken care of.
- Organization and community.
- Great memories of my children & grandchildren enjoying all the town activities.

- Nothing interesting for adults. We have no kids.
- There is nothing to do there unless you have younger kids playing sports. There is nothing for older kids and adults for recreation such as a tennis court, basketball court, walking path, pool, etc...
- Very friendly atmosphere.
- It's hard to recommend a department. The festival in the fall has always been great and enjoyable, but group programs for kids is significantly lacking in my opinion. There are very few options for activities/sports, and most of the programs for preschool aged kids is limited to a morning time with no alternative afternoon time (my son is in preschool at that time and can't ever attend). We participated in the t-ball program last year and I felt that it was very expensive for the quality of the program. I was told that last year was the first year the village had taken over the program, so I do understand issues coming up with the transition. There were, however, issues throughout the season - poor fitting uniforms, uniforms coming in late, poor communication on practices and game cancellations, etc. I reached out to the Director on a few occasions to ask for clarification, to express frustration, and to offer free help in researching other affordable uniform options and nearly all attempts at communication were met with defensiveness and rudeness. In sum, our family hasn't had a great experience with the parks department.
- There is minimal activity for my age category of 40-50-year-old. I attend festivals and happenings in Monee, but I do not have children so I am not recommending much because we are limited in our offerings.
- I feel the department has a lot of ways to go.
- Limited activities. Not enough parking. Not easily handicapped accessible. Program not run efficiently.
- Community and safety.
- There are no parks within walking distance of my house (Country Oaks). If I have to get in my car and drive to a playground, I'm going to pick one with more amenities.
- Very accommodating to the public for groups.
- Well maintained parks.
- I would recommend for something close to home, but there are options in every town. A person may pay more but there are even private companies that offer recreation. Monee is a small town with minimal options.
- Well maintained
- Baseball.
- I've never used any of the park district offerings due to no interest in what is offered or scheduling does not accommodate my work schedule, therefore I can't say if the offerings are worth it or not for a neighbor, but I'm aware of the offerings and may suggest for someone to look into the park district.
- I like the fact that even though are community is small and we don't have some of the amenities that larger villages may have. We have nice options for the children.
- I would recommend the parks here in Monee.
- The only type of recreation this town has is baseball. My family has to go to Crete for other activities that our children enjoy because Monee does not offer much.
- I like that they have so many fun and free/cheap things to do for my children.
- I don't go to the park but my granddaughters do. They enjoyed it.
- I have 2 young children who participate in sports programs.
- Not a lot that interest me or my family.
- Need more programs and more facilities to do them in...
- Why would I recommend.
- No children in home.
- Not as "professional" as I hoped....price was right but didn't feel like my kids were learning enough.
- The kids always have a wonderful time. As do the adults when they were doing the live bands and dancing.
- There hasn't been enough done. There needs to be more done from the department.
- There is not much to do during evening hours.

- I'd like to recommend to friends and family because it's in our town however, I'd like there to be more great things offered to not only have me recommend but have others freely get involved because of how great it changes.
- There are a lot of programs offered. My husband and I were unable to participate in activities last year, as we had just moved into the house and gotten married, so we were busy. We were looking forward to attending programs this summer, but COVID happened. I gave an 8 because I am excited about the programs offered but have not yet attended any.
- I believe most families can benefit from what our Parks and Rec offers!
- I don't have kids and it seems to be the only events offered are for kids.
- I do recommend but town does not participate so it's disappointing.
- Not a lot offered.
- We are new and haven't seen many opportunities.
- Inconsistency.
- Not enough events that interest me.
- Not enough events that interest/pertain to me.
- Walk-in distance from house.
- The activities are fun!
- There isn't as many activities / classes to do.
- at Fireman's Park. I know covid-19 happened this year, but they been declining over the years.
- Limited offerings.
- Need programs for older children and adults.
- I have not visited.
- Lack of programs and also times programs are offered.
- Offer very fun activities.
- Wish we had more parks and of course, a library.
- We have only gone twice but it was a nice event, good food, friendly environment. Although somewhat boring.
- Nothing of interest provided
- I'm new to the area so I'm not sure at this point
- The lady (I believe her name is Donna, sorry if I misspelled it) who runs all the activities is doing such a great job.
- Not enough offered for teens and/or adults (Not seniors).
- Everything has been canceled this year, but we loved the ballet program, soccer camps, and cooking classes they had before Covid. As for the parks, we also use to be there all the time! Covid just changed everything.
- Just because I don't use it doesn't mean they wouldn't use it.
- Not much offered.
- Our family loves and always attend the large events at foreman's park! we look forward to them every year, but we haven't had luck with some of the smaller parks and reck classes.
- Gives my student to have fun, interact with other children and he safe
- The friendly people in our town.
- Not enough facilities/equipment, no excitement around programs, limited number of parks.

Question 6a- Please tell us why? **(Please be as specific as possible)**

- We moved to the town in 2002. We've seen minimal improvements. Cheerleading, baseball, football. No other sports were offered. Kids are grown and it's too late.
- Unable to answer as I have not participated in any activities for many years.
- Zumba was cancelled. There are no sports or activities for teenagers.

- See previous answers, facts can be added but the look and feel of the program is unacceptable based on increased taxes to Monee citizens.
- The quality of the programs has gone completely downhill.
- Monee need a recreation center, pool, racquetball basketball. We are limited compared to other towns.
- The park near my house has a broken bridge and has not been fixed for over a year. There is caution tape on it but still wasn't fixed (PLENTY of time before Covid hit by the way).
- Again, not enough teen or adult programs and if there are any it is during the daytime hours when I am working.
- Just nothing that interests us. Maybe a summer music fest geared toward our ages; Teen, young adult, and 40s. A walking path connecting all subdivisions. An ice rink in winter. Maybe a community garden or native wildflower club.
- If there was something offered of interest, walking trails, bandshell, master gardener classes, stained glass or woodworking, hands on adult classes might draw in more people rather than just pandering to kids.
- It seems that a small clique of insiders makes events for their specialized interests and not that of the whole.
- Also, where is the playground in Gorman Farm Subdivision? Public Works cuts the grass there but no playground equipment.
- Gorman has one of the highest if not the highest tax burdens yet no playground for the children and residents!
- Once again, you have nothing going on that interests me or appeal to me.
- No recreational center. No splash pad for the kids.
- The town needs to invest in a grocery store!
- Too much open areas subject to maintain for only a few programs.
- We paid a lot in our taxes that keeps going every year and has to go somewhere to play tennis (Tennis club member) and basketball, bikes to Frankfort, Flossmoor, Crete to do these activities not to mention my kids go to private school.
- WE NEED A WALKING TRAIL!!!!
- Very limited options for my household. We enjoy playing basketball and biking. Neither is available in Monee.
- As stated before, there is nothing for adults, young adults, teenagers, to do. The only thing are organized sports for kids up to 8th grade. Even those not so good. The fields were / are horrible. Most times you had moms and dads taking care of the fields. We are in desperate need of tennis courts, basketball court, walking path, a pool maybe, decent baseball fields for the kids etc.
- There are a lot of kids in this community and I feel as though it would benefit the community to support the parks department. It would be great if residents could be surveyed (such as this) and see what specific types of programs/activities would drum up the most interest. When I moved into the village, I sent out a brief Facebook post on what activities were wanted by families and got a huge response (I was considering teaching a baby music class and wanted to see if there was interest).
- Program needs to be run by someone that is efficient with good people skills and knows how to manage the programs and participants.
- The park district offerings are often aimed at children or families. As a single adult with no children, the offerings do not feel welcoming to me. I choose to visit other areas or go downtown to access events or locations that appeal to my interest of outdoors, the arts or education. I will often visit farmers markets, museums, hiking/walking/bike trails, yoga studios, coffee shops, etc. The yoga that is offered by the park district is limited. It would be nice to have a regular group fitness schedule that was consistent year-round instead of the 6-8-week offerings.
- We don't have anything. Need bike trails, grocery store, and other things in our town.
- Our town has so much land but no bike trail. We need a grocery store and no more liquor and bars.
- Took concession away from football they lost money and it sucked. Took over baseball and it sucked and there is nothing else this town offers kids. We go to other towns for everything.
- I feel we need easily accessible info about what is happening in town and better notice. And I would like to see Monee CERT come back.
- I want Monee CERT back and I would like more opportunities to participate in Village programs and events. We need more notice of events and programs.
- The parks are nasty, everything is broke.
- There is no band shell, no farmers markets, no events or reason to gather in any park in Monee
- I do not think there are enough parks or walking and biking options in our Village.
- Needs more variety of sport programs and teen programs so kids can have fun and not get into trouble.
- We need to focus on income and building up our town. I've been in Monee for 20 years and nothing's changed! We had a good parks dept years ago and it went away. Why do our leaders say no to most things instead of factories??? I'm just so disappointed and frustrated in what could have been. We had such high hopes when we bought our house and now it's worthless because no one around here likes change.

Question 7 - How do you learn about what is happening with Parks & Recreation within the Village? **(Check all that apply)- Other:**

- The monthly or quarterly Monee newsletter really doesn't cut it.
- Vedette.
- Village new magazine.
- Passing by on Court Street and seeing nice activity.
- We don't hear about anything till it's too late.
- Daughter works for village
- New to the area and I am not sure how to find out. CN you please contact me to provide me with more resources and options in our area. (414-721-1748)
- My husband told me. I had no idea and I'm on both Monee Facebook pages.

Question 8 - Do you or members of your household use any of the following listed below for parks, facilities, recreation programs and/or services? **(Check all that apply)- Other:**

- Sporting events.
- Daycare.
- Trails.
- Football.
- Leo Hassett Community Center in Manteno.
- Monee Reservoir.
- Programs in programs 15+ miles away.
- Other towns basketball & volleyball courts
- We don't have a library or a homeowner's association.

Question 9- Why do you use them?

- Because they are not available through the village or sometimes, they are cheaper outside of the village.
- The lone park on this side of town is actually at Natural Discovery- my daughter and sons' daycare/school. We've used it with the owner's permission.
- We live in town and pay enough in taxes so I'd like to see updated nice parks for the residents of Monee.
- Not available in Monee.
- Better times and programs.
- Natural discovery provides the activities my grandson needs.
- Exercise and connecting with nature.
- Outdoor activity.
- Because they're close.
- There are more options and it is more affordable.
- Programming I'm interested in.
- Easy access no other way.
- Because Monee has really nothing to offer or is geared towards Senior Citizens.
- My son is starting Kindergarten in the fall. He attended the ELC briefly, and he also participated in the toddler music and movement class with Ms. Bethany when we first moved in.
- Better programs or programs that we don't offer or programs that are financially reasonable because I register 3 kids.

- Swimming, arcades, gyms.
- That's a dumb question. School is cause that's the only school around Monee that's in dist smh. The parks so my kids can play somewhere. I live in this town for 20 years now and still have never really see stuff for kids except on Halloween and movie in the park and the fest. The only other time u see the parks used is when there football games and baseball games. And that brings in money in to the town. How you ask by other people coming in to town they go to our store and places to eat. Monee should work with the teams more and try to control them but partner with them and show that u support the in-town teams. Take pride in the teams and the kids!!
- None of your business.
- Football and cheer, and park for the kids to play.
- They have more activities than Monee and facilities to host them in.
- Soccer in Crete.
- Cause they are better maintained then Monee, plus they have more options for my kids.
- Entertainment.
- We spend a lot of time outdoors, both the parks and the forest preserves
- To get away hustle & bustle and enjoy nature.
- Availability. Scenery.
- To get fresh air, sun, and exercise on the paths and trails with our dog. To use the parks with our kids.
- Because they are easily accessible.
- Enjoyment & fitness & beauty.
- So, I get something for my tax dollars.
- Outdoor recreation, reading, etc.
- We have not used the library much but we use it because it is available… Church to us is very important though.
- Love to be out in nature and away from crowds
- Socialization and Fitness
- Convenience
- Forest preserve for nature walks and education. Monee reservoir too for national night out and walks.
- Library had story time and songs Peotone.
- Because they are available during my free hours.
- Exercise and social time.
- Would love a library in our town. Hate that I need to drive to Peotone or Crete.
- I would use the library more if it was closer than Crete and Peotone. I would use a YMCA if we had one close by.
- Free open public spaces are essential to a healthy community. As more and more younger people are growing and raising families, I think it's important to make sure these parks are not only maintained but visible to them not only with physical signage but also digital signage, to make sure they're marked correctly on online mapping services so that they can be found and used by everyone. To be honest I didn't even know that the other town parks have names or which are named which, besides Firemen's Park. Trying to find anything about which is where online yielded no results for Monee. If you look at a map of Frankfort or Orland, Mokena or Minooka, you'll see their town parks clearly marked which makes them easy to find which makes them, in my opinion, more accessible to the whole community to use, not just those who drive past them or live next door to them.
- Clearly better organized, clean, safe and available.
- My children played football for the Monee Mavericks
- Convenience.
- Governors State has a pool in their rec center. Monee doesn't have a pool or water park.
- For fresh air.
- That's what life is all about.
- Because availability of several of these kinds of facilities are lacking in Monee.
- Sports leagues, recreation
- The location and the hours are convenient.
- No other options.
- No other option.
- They offer what I wish to partake in.
- More convenient.
- Fun activity for my son that isn't just watching TV.
- Many choices.
- There are programs I'm interested in.
- Cause NONE offered HERE!
- Spend time with grandchildren.
- Relevancy of program offerings.
- They have more offerings and various times.
- They caterer to what I am interested in and have more options to entertain me.
- The offer more space for biking, hiking and nature.
- To get out with our son and to let him play with others.
- Football!!!
- I have a child and they really enjoy attending and being involved.
- For enjoyment.
- Exercise.
- To do things as a family and keep our kids involved in activities.
- Enjoy an outdoor walk.
- Forest preserves and other towns offer more available to patrons. Their programs are run efficiently. They offer plenty of parking.
- Neighboring communities offer more programs, have easier parking and larger parking facilities, offer better handicap accessibility, and are run much more efficiently.
- We go to schools/other park districts for their playgrounds. My son goes to a health club and to other town's parks that have facilities for skateboarding.
- They are close, not a far drive.
- Forest preserves offer outdoor trails and webinars that are of interest (native gardening, native animal/bird watching, etc.)
- I prefer to stay closer to home. I try as much as I can to support where I live.
- We use them to teach and provide fun experiences for my children. Also, church for religious reasons.
- Sports and recreation.
- Feel like it.
- Most for what they offer.
- They have more to offer.
- No choice.
- We are an active family and like to do lots of things. Unfortunately, due to Monee not having many options for sports/classes we are forced to pay out of distract prices in neighboring towns.
- Monee reservoir, fishing.
- Weekend picnics and fishing.
- To get the family or the kids moving. Participate in programs and teams that interest them that aren't offered here. Some programs don't fit our children's age groups.
- For fun.
- Tinley parks forest preserves have some nice covered area s with bathroom facilities for family picnics/parties to choose from for rental/reserve.
- I go to what we can to support.
- Free.
- Self-care.
- Go to other towns because Monee does not have anything to offer.
- Vendor fairs and recreation.
- School - to attend Monee Women's Club vendor fair 1 time a year.
- Monee Reservoir for walking, photoshoots, & picnics.
- Library to check out services & what's available.
- Have grandchildren.

- Activities sports and other programs for my kids.
- Exercise.
- Because we enjoy the programs offered.
- For events, to go to church. Brings the community together.
- NA.
- Boredom.
- Events of interest - look at Frankfort for ideas.
- More options and established programs.
- History with other participants.
- Richton Park host workout classes for a reasonable price, twice a day 4 to 5 days a week. My son likes to play basketball. My husband uses a different park for swimming.
- Our school for volleyball, track, and a basketball team. The library to check out books. Cooking classes.
- It's pretty like going on the strolls.
- Offer things for teens, and/or non-senior adults.
- Because they're available.
- We like those sports, and Monee doesn't have them. Use private gym for weightlifting, because Monee doesn't have that.
- To stay fit, have fun.
- Cause Monee doesn't have them in town.
- They are nice and available.
- Because they are superior in quality and in choices of offerings/times.

Question 16 - Of the FIRST age group you selected, please tell us the types of programs you would be most interested in (i.e. sports, arts, gymnastics, dance, yoga, etc.).

- Sporting events, age specific games, table tennis, volleyball, basketball.
- Roller skating. Canoeing.
- Music classes, dance classes would be great!
- Arts, dance, activities where they can get together.
- Sports, arts.
- Cheer.
- Yoga.
- Painting
- Listening to music. Enjoyed the swing and jazz concerts.
- More sports options and some of the kids programs you do offer already available weekends and evenings.
- Yoga, basketball or volleyball
- Gymnastics.
- Sports not offered when school is not in session.
- My children are now grown. More concerts in the park. Bussing events, casinos, bingos.
- Art, music but not just in the mornings. Children who attend preschool miss a lot of these programs.
- STEM, art, gaming, social group.
- All of the above.
- Video games, home economics, boxing.
- Look at Tinley's programs for these groups, not hard to model programs from other SUCCESSFUL towns, or we simply don't have the staff to think out of the box because we don't even promote healthy ideas with our current village board.
- Soccer, baseball, gymnastics, all sports, various events.
- Sports (tennis courts!), arts and yoga.
- Gymnastics/tumbling, dance, art.
- Arts, sports, STEAM, high school/ college prep.
- Basketball, baseball, yoga, gymnastics, biking, science or cooking classes.
- Sports.
- Mommy and me classes after regular business hours or weekends.

- Gymnastics, horseback riding, swim lessons, dance, karate.
- Mommy/baby activities! :) more kid/dog focused activities too!
- Soccer.
- Sports.
- Dance, sports, art.
- Football and cheer.
- Cooking, exercise, crafts, yoga, arts.
- Basketball, martial arts.
- Dance, sports.
- Sports and arts.
- Soccer, karate, baseball, tball, swimming, tumbling.
- Sports, dance, fitness, beginner's yoga.
- Football.
- Sports.
- Any teen activity,
- Arts.
- Nature and agriculture, fishing, conservation.
- Gymnastics and dance.
- Outings to events, although I doubt with Covid 19 I will participate until we have vaccine.
- More adult sport activities: co-Ed softball.
- Bingo, concerts, lunches, movies.
- Sports / kids social interaction classes.
- Arts and sports.
- Soccer, skating, arts, talent contests.
- Arts, music, flea market, farmers market, yoga all levels, walking trails, hands on classes of substance.
- Yoga, crafting, gym type classes like cardio/group exercise. We often thumb through the parks newsletter and see what look like they could be fun if a little silly activity for young couples but then notice that the ages are either much younger (children) or much older (seniors) than ourselves. I think it could be fun to open up some of these activities to a wider group who wish to participate, it can be healthy and promote greater community engagement to allow all generations to meet and mingle while having fun doing a structured task. This helps people to meet and befriend each other which can build a stronger less divided community.
- Gymnastics, dance, cheerleading, football, and wrestling.
- Yoga, fitness.
- Swimming, walking.
- Fishing.
- Tai Chi, Yoga, Karate.
- Sports, Camp, Dance, Gymnastics.
- Sports, crafts, games, exercise.
- 2 Pickleball Courts would be great, but cost is an issue. Pickleball is the fastest growing adult athletic activity in the country. I am 76 and my wife is 67, and we both play because pickleball is easy on the body, especially the knees. I have a saying: 'If you try pickleball and stick with it, it will change your life.' About 15 adults, male and female have thanked me for introducing them to pickleball.
- Sports, gymnastics, camps.
- Toddler courses like a mommy and me.
- Into to sports (a class to teach kids how to be part of a team and how to work together)
- Circuit, Music.
- Fitness, yoga, volunteers to clean-up around Monee. It bothers me that there's so much trash off the ramps of the expressways.
- Arts and sports.
- Music.
- Gymnastics, sports, water activities.
- Fitness programs, and outings, education events, Cooking, painting, etc. walking, bike paths.

- Yoga.
- Exercise, line dancing, yoga.
- Sports, arts.
- Dance.
- Programs not covered by local schools: arts, outdoors, opportunities for families/parents to meet and socialize together (non-sport as these are covered by various clubs and leagues)
- All the above plus a place to gather.
- Sports, STEM.
- Anything for middle aged adults. Arts, crafting, exercise, etc...
- This age group should be exposed to the arts because is very important for a child's creative development. Expressing themselves through art is preparing young minds for a future of invaluable experiences art related or otherwise.
- These programs should be focused on activities that teenagers are excited about. Right now, I'm not sure what that is.
- Yoga.
- Sports.
- Football.
- Anything.
- Tots sessions after work hours or weekends, sports peewee soccer, ballet dance. Swimming.
- Dance, Arts.
- Live entertainment.
- Sports, yoga.
- Sports.
- Exercise.
- Theater program, STEM club, sports, dance, yoga, music, community outreach/kindness club, game club.
- Fitness class, Yoga, Kick Boxing.
- Sports, meet up events.
- Sports.
- Yoga/social outings.
- Sports, arts, gymnastics.
- Organized sports and arts programs.
- Gymnastic, dance, yoga.
- Arts.
- Tumbling.
- More sports and more things for teenagers to do. They need a place to hang out.
- Regular group fitness/wellness courses (yoga, spin, bootcamp, Pilates, kickboxing, etc.), adult art classes like pottery and painting.
- Sports.
- Sports, dance, art.
- Dance, art, yoga, weight lifting, boxing, classes in hair and makeup, sewing.
- Gymnastics, arts.
- Gymnastics, dance.
- Sports, entertainment.
- Basketball, baseball.
- Sports, Arts, Gymnastics.
- Art, sports, dance, music.
- Art, swimming, dance, gymnastics.
- Bike trail.
- Place to have a Volleyball league. A men's softball team league. A bike trail.
- Basketball, Jumping trampoline/pillow, Rec Center...Larger more fun/interactive park equipment, ice skating, giant checkers...along shot but go carts would be great.
- Just something to give kids to do. My kids are older and keep busy and I also think that means staying out of trouble.

- Kids & science, girls in coding class.
- Spirts for little boys.
- Dance, yoga, crafting.
- Table top gaming, Martial arts, cooking classes.
- Baseball, wrestling, arts.
- Any kind of after school activities.
- Bingo.
- Gymnastics, dance, art, yoga, sports.
- Sports, Dance, Art/crafts
- Dance.
- Sports, gymnastics and dance.
- Dance.
- Mommy and me classes, baby and special person.
- Exercise.
- Pool, low impact fitness and concerts.
- Sports, movie nights, music events and festivals.
- Sports and arts.
- Gymnastics, cooking, sports, arts and dance.
- Cooking Classes.
- Sports, yoga and dance.
- Sports, engaging activities like scavenger hunts, or socials, college planning, etc.
- Sports (Soccer) STEM, art and cooking.
- Basketball and volleyball.
- Sports, for special needs kids who may need more one on one and soccer.
- Soccer, teen hang out, movie dance and fieldtrips.
- Gymnastics, dance classes, ninja classes for kids, coding classes, art classes and swim classes.
- Everyone on this list needs what we don't have.
- Sports, arts, gymnastics and dance.

Question 17 - Of the SECOND age group you selected, please tell us the types of programs you would be most interested in (i.e. sports, arts, gymnastics, dance, yoga, etc.).

- Tai chi, sporting events, dancing, light fitness, walking and cycling.
- Service activities to give back at a young age
- Yoga (Which I was going to start this summer... but....), dance classes, cooking classes.
- Sports.
- Arts and sports.
- Sports.
- Volleyball.
- Soccer.
- Bingo.
- Same as above.
- Sports and volunteer programs.
- Gymnastics.
- Same.
- More concerts in the park. Bussing events, casinos, bingos. Farmers market. Dog parks. Waking trails.
- Specifically, 5-6 age range. Cooking, art and crafts.
- Same as above.
- All.
- Boxing/kick boxing, knitting, arts & crafts.
- Same as above, does anyone hold anyone accountable for the village parks and recreation?
- Sports, story times, mom groups,
- Sports - tennis courts, basketball courts, etc. more recreational sport activities.

- Dance, art.
- College prep., Info on FAFSA, help with scholarships/ where to look, how to dress/prepare for job interviews.
- Dance, gymnastics, t-ball, preschool.
- Sports.
- Gymnastics.
- Basketball, golf.
- Sports.
- Sports and dance (hip hop).
- Football and cheer.
- Walking, agility training for dogs, tai chi.
- Arts.
- Sports and arts.
- Soccer, baseball, swimming.
- Sports, dance, yoga, fitness.
- Football.
- Sports.
- Tai chi class.
- Nature, fishing, skeet or trap shooting, conservation
- Arts and dance.
- Same answer.
- Co-Ed softball.
- Sports, work outs.
- Arts, yoga, and dance.
- sports of all possible types, video competitions, team village volunteering (such as helping seniors) and coaching younger kids.
- Geriatric exercise class, quilting class, knitting lessons, walking groups.
- Yoga, exercise programs.
- Wrestling, football, peer groups.
- Sports, arts.
- Don't know, don't care. You made me select two groups.
- Arts.
- Sports.
- Same as above.
- Arts, dance, yoga, exercise and games.
- Same: Pickleball.
- Sports, gymnastics, camps and cooking.
- Football.
- A Wi-Fi snack lounge (Free Wi-Fi, sell drinks and snacks, charging stations)
- Gym, Nutrition.
- Fitness, walking trails.
- Entertainment.
- Sports.
- Video games, ninja warrior, weightlifting.
- Fitness programs, outings, educational events, Cooking, painting, etc., walking, bike paths.
- Exercise.
- Exercise, line dancing, yoga.
- Sports and arts.
- Gymnastics.
- Programs to connect people whose children are aging out of home and have fewer child-led social connections
- Field trips, chair yoga, seminars or guest speakers on aging, money, mental care, etc.
- Sports and STEM.

- Same.
- This age group is the working base people that just need something to do in the neighborhood. The Fireman's Park is focus towards the youth and there is nothing to make this age group active. Many of my neighbors' bike, job, run or walk their dogs around the block because there is no other place to go in the area.
- Hiking, biking, fitness classes (outdoor), shopping, travel (road trips).
- Arts, gymnastics.
- Said to pick 2 but have 1 son.
- Football.
- Better equipment.
- Dance, gymnastics, discover Monee or ranch field trips, Amazon kid program.
- Arts. Guitar. Piano lessons.
- Dancing.
- Sports.
- Sports.
- Community outreach/volunteer, theater, music club, yoga, sports, dance, after-school programs, Girls on the Run or another girl empowerment/self-esteem program, chess or game club.
- Fitness classes, yoga, trips to places.
- Group activities, exercise.
- Gymnastics.
- Sports, Dance & Arts.
- Sports and arts programs.
- Alternative sports.
- Archery.
- Yoga, craft classes of all kinds.
- Regular group fitness/wellness courses (yoga, spin, bootcamp, Pilates, kickboxing, etc.), adult art classes like pottery and painting.
- Sports.
- Sports, dance, art, preschool.
- Dance, art, weight lifting, boxing, classes in hair and makeup, yoga.
- Same.
- Gymnastics, dance.
- Youth Sports.
- Basketball, baseball.
- Sports.
- Boy/Girl Scouts.
- Dance.
- Art, exercise, craft, book club.
- Sports, video games, A teen center
- Bike trail.
- Same thing.
- Volleyball, Basketball, jumping pillow, Rec Center...Larger more fun/interactive park equipment, ice skating, giant checkers.
- Something fun that also gives parents a reason to get.
- Together and socialize as well, helping build the community.
- Group sports, couples dance classes, art classes in the evening so people who work can get to it after dealing with home stuff. (6/7ish?)
- Girls 8 and older.
- Same.
- Table top gaming, Martial arts and cooking classes.
- Gymnastics.
- Table top gaming, Gardening, painting, photography, martial arts, stretching/yoga and cooking classes.
- Any type of activity for old farts.

- Arts and sports.
- Arts.
- Sports, gymnastics and dance.
- Yoga.
- Sports.
- Look at 4-H. Many craft, building, sewing, agricultural programs which is something that is useful to develop young minds to be self-sufficient.
- Sports and arts.
- Sports, dance, gymnastics and yoga.
- Softball.
- Yoga and sports.
- Arts, road rally, scavenger hunts, wine tasting, cooking classes, etc.
- Same as above.
- Basketball and volleyball.
- Art and volleyball.
- Scooter, teen hangouts, life skills and fieldtrips.
- Swim classes and dance.
- Sports, arts, gymnastics and dance.

Question 23 - Please make any additional comments that you think would be helpful for the staff to hear about.

- Communication in Monee is very silo'd. Each group has its own communication media and sometimes they overlap but mostly they don't. We don't have one method of getting into each home consistently. It's important to use all levels of media, word of mouth, flyers, newspaper, social media, newsletter. It would also be helpful to involve more of the community in picking programs and events, etc.
- Dog friendly areas or a small dog park.
- Recreation for teens ideal. Basketball court, tennis court, volleyball, skate park. Smaller kids benefit from splash pad.
- Dog park would be great. Or walking path around town.
- I think that the area west of 57 needs to be thought of when the village thinks of parks. I feel like the red-headed step child over here!
- I'd really like to see updated parks in Monee.
- Wish we had a library in town.
- Artificial or astrograss would be amazing in place of the wood chips.
- Since there are things that would be tough to acquire like a recreation center/gym/pool it would be nice to partner with another so that there are options available to residents.
- Dog park is essential please. We should model our parks like Manteno and Tinley.
- Walking/bike paths, splash pad, shelter areas at the parks for shade, more benches to sit, restrooms, more light poles in the community.
- Village board needs to invest in parks and stop spending money on special interest items of those on the board.
- Every subdivision has a park but not Eagle Fair. We pay a ton in taxes and my kids don't have a park or nothing like other subdivisions. There is plenty of empty land. But we got a water tower...
- Pathways/sidewalks are also very important to me because I would like to walk from country meadows to Firemen's Park!
- Splash pad or water fun for the summer and basketball league would be super beneficial for so many family vs going elsewhere to play.
- I love the Mavericks and what it stands for in the community, I want to see more organized sports like this.
- The parks and rec department should not have anything to do with the Mavericks.
- Improve Fireman's Park entire area. Public restrooms.
- If building new structures or updating current parks a great idea from other towns is to incorporate shading. Having an area that's shaded with sitting under it such as benches or a picnic table is fantasy for families with toddlers. Also walking paths/sidewalks that go ALL THE WAY to the park is very nice for families with strollers. I can't believe the park near my house has a path that goes 80% of the way to the park then it's just grass. What a pain walking it wet/dewy grass and even worse with a stroller. Just so odd that the path stops before the actual park.
- I have no idea how many people with special needs there are in Monee, but I think it is especially important to include them in park district activities. I work for SSSRA as an inclusion specialist and rec leader for people with special needs, and they have so much fun!
- Children and adults need to know more about country living. There is more to life than inner city and urban areas. Monee should grow yet keep the small-town feel.
- Gorman subdivision has park land that exists of over growth of grasses and brush. Could use a cutting and walking trail on perimeter of land for our walkers. A few benches for those who walk and just want to enjoy nature. OVER THREE DECADES AND NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE PARK LAND.
- The parks program needs MANY more parents/adults to get involved and volunteer their time to make the program successful. There must be a way to make this happen.
- Tear down the Creamery.
- Need more advertisement regarding what is going on in Monee. We get the newsletter but maybe post cards as a reminder of upcoming events.
- keep prices reasonable or free if possible. Make one park the central place for activities so everyone knows where the essential park is.
- Overall Monee parks department seems like a well put together and well ran operation, I think a little better visibility of your properties would help. The parks that I've seen are clean and well-kept but seem a little under-utilized compared to other towns I've lived in such as Homewood and Flossmoor to the north. Open spaces, nature walks, and playgrounds can turn a town into a home which feels lush, vibrant, and inviting to its residents. You can own a home anywhere, but to call your town home takes something special. Monee almost has that home town feeling, it just needs a little more walking/biking accessibility along some of the busier streets, and somewhere to get ice cream.
- Acquire new land for parks? Really? How about building in the existing vacant park in Gorman?
- I think the new mayor does not support the football team like previous mayors. I think the people he had for the concession stand was rude except for the football lady that had to come in and help and almost run it. The kids did not benefit from it. The grass on the field has always been shitty and still is. If we want our kids to have good programs we have to go elsewhere because this village is made for older people not people who move here to start a family. We have to find other means of entertainment for them outside their community. Once football season is done some of these kids only see each other in school until next season until they are too old and go their separate ways.
- Our park program is of no use to me. I want to use a pool. I would like to have a Village indoor pool (for year-round use) with specific times set aside for adults only. I would like to see a walking trail. And I don't mean a 1/4-mile concrete circle to walk around and around and around. There is land across from the Animal Wellness building that currently isn't being used, not being farmed. A lovely meandering, level, wood chip lined walking trail would be nice in an area such as that. Walking around the Village is treacherous, and the Village doesn't care because all they do is ride around in trucks. No one is our walking the streets to discover what walkers (specifically ME) encounter. There are not sidewalks everywhere. Some existing sidewalks are in bad condition. People don't trim their trees or bushes. I have to duck to walk under some trees, and walk in the grass to walk around untrimmed bushes. Cars park over sidewalks, and again I am walking in the street. There are many many homes that have hoses draining onto the sidewalks, from gutters and who knows what else. In cold weather this makes the sidewalks icy. And if it isn't cold, some of these hoses also deposit mud onto the sidewalks, and that can be slippery as well. Aren't there codes about that? Shouldn't these hoses be emptying into drain tiles? And there are some inconsiderate people who, on trash day, place their garbage cans in the crosswalks, once again making me walk in the grass. I don't think that there should be fees for these because my taxes keep going up up up up up and I don't see any amenities in return for the increases. You've already collected enough money. Also, for dog owners, there should be a dog park right here. Why should Monee residents have to drive to 394 to use a dog park? We have to drive to another town for everything. So, is my voice being heard? And what are you going to do about it?
- More Music.
- I good promotional techniques are a must when planning an event or class.

- I would be happy to give a presentation on pickleball.
- The park is great for younger people. There are health problems and we just don't go there anymore.
- I'd love more communication regarding sports programming
- Thank you for asking for our opinions!
- Provide the community with services and recreation so we can enjoy the village we pay taxes in.
- I really think a really nice walking trail would be wonderful.
- A SPLASH PAD WOULD BE AWESOME!
- We need to see our money is geared toward building in improving these recreational areas, as it is Monee is already a sleepy town, what is it there to amuse the children in the summer time? rather not driving to neighborhood towns?
- Tennis courts would be a much-valued addition at one of our parks along with basketball hoops
- Why not host events in the neighborhood parks or host neighborhood specific events? Get these communities to help organize. Paved exercised trails bring people out and there are few options in this area. It might make sense to try to do a few things really, really well given the resources in the community versus going after a breadth of improvements.
- We really really need PARKS for the kids in the Eagle court neighborhood.
- WE NEED WALKING/BIKE TRAILS! Every other town around here has them!
- Building new parks with bike, walk paths and dog parks will bring a community closer together. The parks that stand today I never see kids playing because they are outdated. Nothing is appealing about those parks and that need to change. I want to bring my family to a new and improved park and not have to travel to Frankfort to accomplish that goal. REBUILD.
- Possibility of interconnected bicycle routes within Monee and neighboring towns.
- Everyone does a great job. People in the community need to start participating here instead of other towns. If people do then maybe the town can expand and have more available.
- Give proceeds of concessions stand back to our Mavericks family!!
- Other than the parks we would like to see more mom and pop shops. Delis, fresh food market, fresh bakeries, etc.
- Our parks need more things to do. The only use at this point is for sports for kids' preschool/kindergarten to 8th grade. Organized programs in the recreation center are not that important, they are a bonus for the older folks and young kids, bingo etc... We need tennis courts, walking path, basketball court a pool maybe, more organized parking. Not looking for something to pay a fee to do, just want somewhere to go to play/exercise/hangout.
- Monee is a beautiful village and I feel as though it has great potential. I completely understand that kids/families are not the only population in the village, it's just where we are at as a family right now and these are the services we are seeking. Looking at the newsletter, it does seem as though there are some great activities happening for the senior population, would just be great to see more options for kids. Last comment - we do love the newsletter and it doesn't provide a great resource for programs. However, we don't often receive the newsletter with much notice to sign up for first session of certain activities. Typically, when we actually receive it in the mail, we've already missed the first session. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback!
- I would love to see a walking path, dog park, volleyball courts, or more things in our community for kids and adults to enjoy. We are very limited with parks and things we have for teens to play pickup games. Mostly playground equipment for little kids. Horseshoe courts and shuffleboard courts are very fun too and I hope we consider those as well.
- Sidewalks should be a top priority in the Village. They could be used for walking paths and provide much needed safety for residents who currently have to walk in streets to get to most places. A new facility should be established that is not in the center of town to provide a safer place for children to participate in anything that is offered. It should have plenty of parking and provide handicap accessibility. The current location of Fireman's Park is not a safe location and does not provide adequate parking. Families have to walk in the streets to get to it. While walking paths are nice, you still have to get to the location safely to use the walking paths. A walking path at a new location would be best. If adding a walking path to Fireman's park is what is decided on, consideration of surrounding property owners should be an utmost priority. Their properties are currently not respected by those that visit the park and if more is added it will only compound the problems that currently exist.

- Have the amenities available so we don't have to go to neighboring towns.
- In hard times currently; due to Covid, people do not need taxes raised. Especially while furloughs and layoffs are happening. The parks will have restricted use due to distancing. A walking/biking path should be a priority, not more group activities and recreation with groups.
- I think it would add greatly to quality of life to have more paths connecting us to parks and recreation. Also, I would love to see a splash pad. I would love to see Monee flourish and continue to be a great spot for families.
- I take my grandchildren to other parks in Monee besides fireman's park but don't know them by name so I probably didn't answer those questions accurately.
- Uee.
- Dianna is doing a great job and has turned our parks department into something to be proud of, now we just some more resources to make our programs grow like our community.
- Monee Reservoir is really the only place to go. Wish we had something in town to walk to.
- I would like to see protective fencing around our parks. Our children need to be protected.
- We wish we had stuff HERE. We go to Peotone for our library....soccer in Crete.....and just end up having to pay more for things simply because our town doesn't have them. (And also commuting everywhere!) It would be nice to do more things close, in our own town, which also will encourage a tighter knit community too. Our taxes are as much as our friend in Tinley Park, and Tinley has WAY more to offer. Sometimes we ask ourselves "why do we live here??"
- I would love to see a bike and walking trail. Something that families can do at any time during the day. But not in the forest or Monee Reservoir. Preferably in town in an open field.
- I believe that the existing parks could use a great facelift and the main park at Firemen's park should be the biggest and best. Interactive where even the older ones, including teens and beyond will participate. All ages, young to old play at Maggie Daley Park as there's so much to do. Make it to where no one would consider going to another town because we can accommodate ALL of our residents of all ages.
- I love what you are doing and definitely notice the changes made since we started our Parks and Rec. keep doing what you are doing and hopefully people will start taking advantage of the programs!
- I think the programs are good but I just don't know why we can't get people involved? Our taxes are almost as much a Frankfort and we don't have nothing compared to Frankfort.
- Other on the top three park features is a community pool.
- Other for top 3 park features is a community pool.
- I know things have been difficult with COVID however there hasn't been much communication about activities for the kids during the summer months. Everything is last minute and not everyone in town uses Facebook.
- A bike rack at Sunrise Park would be nice. The kids just leave their bikes on the sidewalk. They're hard to get around on a bike with a kid or if you have a stroller.
- We need a bike or walking trail.
- Look into other Park Districts. See what makes them work.
- Two years ago, we had a really great park program! Movies in the park, special event for family, and a good variety of programs. Last fall the number of classes to choose from was really slim! Covid has canceled all family fun events this year, but am looking forward to next year. I go to other Park District for soccer and gymnastics. We find private companies for some kids cooking classes. I would love more STEM classes for younger ages as my son is really interested in that stuff.
- As for new parks, I could care less for, just repair, and upgrade the parks we have. I love the idea of a good walking/biking path as we do drive to Frankfort to bike there. I hate how dogs are forbidden at every park and think it would be nice to have a dog park as well. If I had to only pick one, I think the bike path would be the most important to my family.
- I don't live in Monee proper I live in Monee Township but we do use the parks from time to time and participate in events over the last 46 years.
- We love the family events! We always invite all our friends and family to join us! can't wait to open back up to make more family memories!
- A pool would be nice, splash pad and a library.

- Where were you when my kids were little? I want you to improve the parks so my house will sell. The park in my neighborhood is lovely and nice to have. Please do not remove it, neighborhoods need parks for children and families.
- Community events and classes bring people together. Invest in elevating our town so we can be proud to invite our friends and families here. Instead we have to go or meet them where they live for playdates or visits because we have nothing to offer here. No nice parks, splash pad, pool, library or activities like Frankfort, Tinley Park, Shorewood or other communities offer.
- Friendship Park equipment is in very poor condition, fence is falling and looking very, very bad. Both ponds on Iris Lane are nasty dirty.

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

5 and Under	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	echnical/Trac	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Preschool Story Hour		X										
British Soccer Camp	X											
LWSRA Party in the Park								X				
Kids Day								X				
Little Tyke Sports Class	X											
Fairy Dance Workshop			X									
Preschool Music and Movement			X									
Coloring Contest								X				
Write letters to Santa								X				
Candy Counting Contest								X				
Tiny Tykes Soccer Camp	X											
T-Ball	X											
Halloween Happenings								X				
Tree Lighting								X				
	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0

Total 5 and Under Programs: 14

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Elementary: Ages 5 to 12	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Silly Science		X										
Into to Stem											X	
Stem Challenge											X	
Jedi Engeineering with LEGO											X	
Ledi Master Engineering with LEGO											X	
Taekwondo	X											
Muay Thia	X											
Make your Own Pizza		X										
Bakers Delight		X										
Cheerleading Tumbling Camp	X											
Gymnastics Camp	X											
British Soccer Camp	X											
Smoothies		X										
Learning to Knit		X										
Stuffed Animal Workshop		x										
LWSRA Party in the Park					x							
Kids Day					x							
Battle of the Bands			x									
NEW- Art and Craft class		X										
Cookie Decorating Class		X										
Kids art Classes		X										
Coloring Contest		X										
Write Letters to Santa								X				
Fairy Dance Workshop			X									
Homemade Dog Treats		X										
Dinner Time		x										
Spring Treats		x										
Valentine Treats		x										
Half Day Soccer Camp	x											
Flag Football	x											
Cheerleding	x											
Golf	x											
Track and Field	x											
Multi Sport Camp	x											
For the Birds		x										
Mothers Day		x										
Flower Pots and Seedlings		x										
Dog Days of Summer		x										
Before and After school Care						x						
Baseball/softball	x											
Halloween Happenings								x				
Tree Lighting								x				
	12	18	2	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	4	0

Total Elementary 5 to 12 Programs: 42

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Middle School/Jr. High: Ages 12 to 15	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Learning to Knit		x										
Battle of the Bands			x									
Family Swing Dance			x									
Teen Cooking Class		x										
Basic Aikido	x											
Homemade Dogs Treats		x										
Half Day Soccer Camp	x											
Basketball Camp	x											
Flag Football	x											
Track and Field	x											
Multi Sport Camp	x											
For the Birds		x										
Mother's Day		x										
Flower Pots and seedlings		x										
Dog Days of Summer		x										
Giant Paper Flowers		x										
baseball/softball	x											
	7	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Middle School/Jr. High Ages 12 to 15 Programs: 17

High School	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Zumba	X								X			
Yoga	X								X			
Battle of the Bands			X									
Family Swing dance					X							
Homemade Dog Treats		X										
Aikido	X											
Multi Sport Camp	X											
for the Birds		X										
Mothers Day		X										
Flower pots and Seedlings		X										
Giant Paper Flower		X										
	4	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

Total High School Programs: 13

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Young Adult: Ages 18 to 25	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Zumba	X											
Yoga	x											
Battle of the Bands			x									
Famly Swing Dance								x				
slow Flow Yoga	x											
Multi Sport Camp	x											
giant Paper Flower		x										
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show								x				
	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
											Total Young Adult Ages 18 to 25 Programs:	**8**

Adult: Ages 25 to 55	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Zumba	x											
Fitness over 50	x											
Yoga	x											
Family Swing Dance								x				
Giant Paper Flowers		x										
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show								x				
	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
											Total Adult Ages 25 to 55 Programs:	**6**

Active Older Adult: Ages 65 to 72	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Zumba									x			
Fitness over 50									x			
Yoga									x			
Family Swing Dance								x				
Senior Lucheons					x							
Giant Paper Flowerw					x							
Medicare Update									x			
Cop-o-Joe					X							
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show								x				
	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	4	0	0	0
											Total Older Adult Ages 65 to 72 Programs:	**9**

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Older Adult: Ages 72 and Over	Sports	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	Aquatics	Social	Continuing Education	Camps	Special Event	Health/ Fitness	Technical/ Trade	Skill-Specific	Environmental
Fitness over 50	X											
Yoga	X											
Family Swing Dance								x				
Senior Lucheons								x				
Giant Paper Flowere		x										
Cup-o Joe					X							
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show								x				
	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
											Total Older Adult Ages 72 and Over Programs:	**7**

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

5 and Under	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Preschool Story Hour	8	6	5	4	0	8	6	0
British Soccer Camp	6				5			
LWSRA Party in the Park	30				30			
Kids Day	100				100			
Little Tyke Sports Class					12			
Fairy Dance Workshop		0						
Preschool Music and Movement		8	6	4		4	0	
Coloring Contest			6	8		6	7	5
Write letters to Santa			32				23	
Candy Counting Contest		18	17			15	16	
Tiny Tykes Soccer Camp	5				3			
T-Ball					42			
Halloween Happenings		50				50		
Tree Lighting			12				8	
Total # Participants:	149	82	78	16	192	83	60	5

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Elementary: Ages 5 to 12	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Silly Science		8	6	0	0	3	0	
Into to Stem	0							
Stem Challenge	0							
Jedi Engeineering with LEGO	0							
Ledi Master Engineering with LEGO	0							
Taekwondo	5	12	12	12	5	12	12	
Muay Thia	5	6	8	8	5	8	8	
Make your Own Pizza	0							
Bakers Delight	0							
Cheerleading Tumbling Camp	0				0			
Gymnastics Camp	0				0			
British Soccer Camp	4				4			
Smoothies	0							
Learning to Knit	2							
Stuffed Animal Workshop	8	15	12	3	3	2	0	
LWSRA Party in the Park	30				30			
Kids Day	50				50			
Battle of the Bands		0						
NEW- Art and Craft class	0							
Cookie Decorating Class	0							
Kids art Classes	0							
Coloring Contest			15	20			20	10
Write Letters to Santa			30			30		
Fairy Dance Workshop								
Homemade Dog Treats					0			
Dinner Time				0				
Spring Treats				0				
Valentine Treats				0				
Half Day Soccer Camp	0				0			
Flag Football	0				0			
Cheerleding	0				0			
Golf	0				0			
Track and Field	0				0			
Multi Sport Camp					0			
For the Birds					0			
Mothers Day					0			
Flower Pots and Seedlings					0			
Dog Days of Summer					0			
Before and After school Care								5
Baseball/softball					100			80
Halloween Happenings		100				150		
Tree Lighting			30				10	
Total # Participants:	104	141	113	43	197	205	50	95

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Middle School/Jr. High: Ages 12 to 15	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Learning to Knit	2	0		0	0			
Battle of the Bands					0			
Family Swing Dance	20				10			
Teen Cooking Class					2			
Basic Aikido					2	0		
Homemade Dogs Treats					0			
Half Day Soccer Camp	0				0			
Basketball Camp					0			
Flag Football					0			
Track and Field					0			
Multi Sport Camp					0			
For the Birds					0			
Mother's Day				0				
Flower Pots and seedlings				0				
Dog Days of Summer					0			
Giant Paper Flowers						0		
baseball/softball					40			
Total # Participants:	22	0	0	0	54	0	0	0

High School	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Zumba	0							
Yoga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Battle of the Bands						0		
Family Swing dance	15				8			
Homemade Dog Treats				0				
Aikido			0	0				
Multi Sport Camp	0				0			
for the Birds				0				
Mothers Day					0			
Flower pots and Seedlings					0			
Giant Paper Flower								
Total # Participants:	15	0	0	0	8	0	0	0

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Young Adult: Ages 18 to 25	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Zumba	0	0	0					
Yoga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Battle of the Bands	0							
Famly Swing Dance	30				20			
slow Flow Yoga	0	0						
Multi Sport Camp	0				0			
giant Paper Flower	0							
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show		0						
Total # Participants:	30	0	0	0	20	0	0	0

Adult: Ages 25 to 55	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Zumba	0	0	0					
Fitness over 50	0							
Yoga	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	
Family Swing Dance	100				75			
Giant Paper Flowers		0						
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show		0						
Total # Participants:	102	2	3	3	78	4	4	0

Active Older Adult: Ages 65 to 72	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Zumba	6	6						
Fitness over 50	6							
Yoga	10	10	12	12	10	10	10	10
Family Swing Dance	200				150			
Senior Lucheons			150	150			150	
Giant Paper Flowerw				0				
Medicare Update							30	
Cop-o-Joe	0	0	0					
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show	0							
Total # Participants:	222	16	162	162	160	10	190	10

Program Assessment Cube: Village of Monee Parks and Recreation

Older Adult: Ages 72 and Over	Summer 18	Fall 18	Winter 18-19	Spring 19	Summer 19	Fall 19	Winter 19-20	Spring 20
Fitness over 50	2							
Yoga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Family Swing Dance	20				15			
Senior Lucheons			50	50			50	
Giant Paper Flowere	0	0	0					
Cup-o Joe	0	0	0					
holiday Jewelry Fashion Show	0							
Total # Participants:	22	0	50	50	15	0	50	0